

A Look at over 100 Products Including 28 Reviews and 30 New Releases

**NEW**  
iMac Buyer's Guide  
Inside

# MachHome™

www.machome.com

Solutions for Work, Play, and Education

**25** *Top*  
*Products*

*Editors' Choice*

**iBook Review**  
See Page 30

**Tips for Mac OS 9 and X**  
**Tools for Special Needs**  
**Create Legal Documents**

**Plus:** The Mac Workshop, You Ask, We Answer

August 2001









What's the point of capturing life's special moments on videos you can only play on your camcorder? Now, with the new Power Mac™ G4 and Apple's revolutionary iDVD software\*, you can organize and preserve your favorite memories on DVDs you can watch again and again on almost any standard DVD player. iDVD's simple drag-and-drop interface makes it easy to create professional-looking

DVD menus in minutes.



You can even include slide shows of your favorite photos\*\* right alongside your movies.

Then you can use the new G4's aptly named SuperDrive™ to burn your own custom DVDs. No more dusty videotapes and crumpled photos. Just ultra-crisp digital video and CD-quality sound ready to be shared with friends and family anywhere. To see how you can make your memories last forever, visit [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com) or call 1-800-MY-APPLE.  Think different.



# Contents

August 2001 • Volume 9, Number 8



## Features

### The Best of the Best

16

After weeks of no-holds barred debate, the MacHome editors have chosen the top 25 products delivered over the last year. Hardware, software, but no vaporware — here are the tools we rely on for work and play. And this time, you'll know exactly how we made the tough calls.

## News

### NewsWire

8

Apple's World Goes Flat (Panel)  
Introducing Destineer  
The Biggest Game Show of the Year: E3  
Epson Scans Faster than Ever  
No-Wire Routers  
Olympus Snaps Out Two Cameras  
Canon's New Elph



### Open Access

20

A disability doesn't have to keep you away from the Mac. Learn how to start making the computer adapt to you without spending a dime.

Since assistive technology is an integral part of the Mac OS, solutions come in as many shapes and forms as obstacles.

### Making the Law

24

Many of you have asked about legal software for the Mac, so here's a look at every program we could find. From estate planning to business contracting, there's a product to help. We even found a legal dictionary that cut through lawyer-speak faster than a speeding tort.

## Special iMac Buyer's Guide Section

41-48

For even more tips, tricks, and answers, look to the iMac Buyer's Guide. In this issue, learn how to burn a CD, find cool new shareware, and get the latest Mac OS updates.



www.machom



## Departments

- 52** Your Family  
**Build a Weather Station**  
Obsessed with what Mother Nature has up her sleeve? Turn your Mac into a weather station.
- 56** Entertainment  
**Peer into the Crystal Ball**  
Two hot titles, two previews. Baldur's Gate II and American McGee's Alice are ready to rock and roll your Mac.



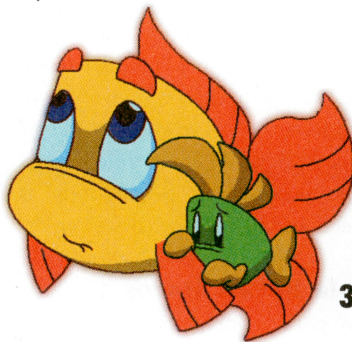
52



37

## Reviews

- 30** Home Office  
**Close-Up iBook 2001**
- 54** Your Family  
Sleuthing with SPY Fox
- 58** Entertainment  
Tony Hawk's all-star moves



34

## Solutions

**Tips & Tricks**  
Keep documents safe, get DVD audio in step with video, and find files faster **26**

**The Mac Workshop**  
"Styling!" — how to customize the sights and sounds of your desktop in OS 9 and OS X **28**

**New Owners**  
Shop online without fear **62**

**The Way It Works**  
Is the Internet really one big computer run by Microsoft? **63**

**You Ask, We Answer**  
Options for the color blind, rebuilding the desktop, and the virus police **64**

**Mac OS X Tips**  
Tell the Dock where to go, clean up downloads, and preview files without pain

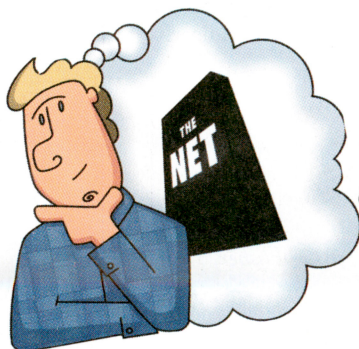
## Columns

- 28** **4** From the Publisher
- 6** Write On  
Reviews archive, Elements vs. GraphicConverter, and Digital8

## Resources

- 66** Ad Index
- 67** Smart Shopper  
Your source for best Mac buys!

84



63

# 28 Products Reviewed

## Home Office: Software

- ★★★★★ Slick Transitions & Effects  
★★★★★ Pick-a-Video  
★★★★★ FreeHand 10  
★★★★★ DVD Studio Pro  
★★★★★ FileMaker Pro 5.5

## Home Office: Hardware

- ★★★★★ iBook 2001  
★★★★★ SpinImage DV Object Imaging Kit  
★★★★★ DiskOnKey  
★★★★★ SyncMaster 570V  
★★★★★ XRouter Aero  
★★★★★ eMarker  
★★★★★ Personal Jukebox  
★★★★★ Hewlett-Packard PSC 750  
★★★★★ Dymo LabelWriter 330 Turbo  
★★★★★ Mouse-in-a-Box Optical Pro  
★★★★★ Digital Relay  
★★★★★ Cordless Mouseman Optical  
★★★★★ FireWire 6-Port Hub  
★★★★★ Neon Ink Cartridges

## Entertainment

- ★★★★★ Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2  
★★★★★ Summoner  
★★★★★ Pong  
★★★★★ Centipede  
★★★★★ Tomb Raider Chronicles

## Your Family

- ★★★★★ SPY Fox: Operation Ozone  
★★★★★ Millie Meter's Nutrition Adventure  
★★★★★ Millie Meter and Her Adventures in the Oak Tree  
★★★★★ Freddi Fish and the Case of the Creature of Coral Cove

## Rating System

- ★★★★★ **Mac-nificent.** You gotta get it. No flaws.
- ★★★★ **Excellent.** Recommended even if it has a minor flaw or two.
- ★★★ **Average.** Despite problems still a worthwhile product.
- ★★ **Below Average.** Has serious flaws that limit its usefulness or fun.
- ★ **Poor.** Avoid this product at all costs.



## Yet Another Reason to Use Macs

**Yesterday I stopped at** the ATM to get some cash for the weekend and it crashed with my card inside (of course): first the screen froze, and then I got the blue screen of death.

As the machine rebooted, strange DOS commands and WARNING: FATAL ERROR messages scrolled across the screen...

Thank goodness we don't have to look at that sort of language when our Macs are having problems. Granted, it's a little disconcerting to discover a folder with a flashing question mark on start up, but it's a lot friendlier than those

DOS lines, and certainly easier to fix! Long live the Mac.

### In This Issue

Our team has done an outstanding job this month — this issue has more tips, reviews, and solutions than

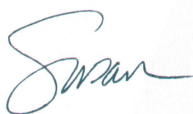
we've delivered in years. We've added a Short Takes section with mini-reviews of less-complex products we think you should know about. All told, we've reviewed and rated 28 products — you asked for it, we delivered. Keep comments and suggestions coming: [www.machome.com/feedback](http://www.machome.com/feedback).

This issue also presents our annual Editors' Choice Awards. Each year we look at hundreds of applications and peripherals. Many are quite good, a few are not, and 25 were outstanding. "The Best of the Best" begins on page 16.

Internet-only feature to our website ([www.machome.com](http://www.machome.com)), called "5 Questions With." You'll find interviews with industry notables, Apple Masters, and other interesting people, updated two or three times a month. Who would you like interviewed, and what do you want us to ask? Send an email to [letters@machome.com](mailto:letters@machome.com) with "5 Questions" as the subject, and we'll see what we can do.

### Apple Retail Stores

We've got a report on the Apple retail store experience. Jim Rich from Washington, D.C., wrote to say that he bought his first-ever Mac (an iMac) at Tysons Corner, Virginia: "For those who have not had the good fortune of visiting an Apple store, hang on. This store was amazing, from hands-on use of Macs, software, digital cameras, and printers, to a genius bar where Mac folks answer all questions. I went in knowing what I wanted, and they did not even try to sell me a more expensive product. The staff was helpful, and all had a 'can-do' attitude." Jim closed by describing himself as a new, devoted Mac-head — that's what we like to hear!



Susan Ford, *Publisher*

**On the Web** We've added a new

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## This Time for Sure!

**A**n article in the June issue said, "Screamin' Demons Over Europe should be in stores by the time you read this." Well, it isn't. I just came back from Comp USA and Data Vision. Neither store has it. So, can you please tell me where I can purchase it? MacMall? Thank you.

Marvin A. Josephson

*The release date for Screamin' Demons was pushed back to Summer, 2001 which just happens to be occurring right now. Before publication, MacPlay said that the game would be ready by the last issue. But check again to see if it's out — visit [www.macplay.com](http://www.macplay.com) for more information.*

## Where Could They All Be Hiding?

I cannot for the life of me seem to find the review archives on the MacHome website! I have been trying periodically for several months to access the reviews archives. First I got an error message that

*Yes, the reviews are up there. Try the search box on the left side of the front page. And to help you navigate them easier, you can now view them by issue.*

## Periodic Table of Graphic Apps

I was happy to read about the coming of the sort-of-Photoshop lite called Photoshop Elements, even though I own an earlier full version. I tend to use it for web graphics so the simpler, the better. The Elements version caught my eye, but then I remembered having registered GraphicConverter, which is somehow known as the "poor man's Photoshop."

So I'd like to know how these two would stand the comparison. I would suppose the Adobe product will come out as a winner but still, since I'm nowhere near being a graphic specialist, I would sure like you to look into it.

Thanks for everything and keep this great magazine alive.

Pierre-Yves Lamarre

*The still-powerful GraphicConverter is available at [www.graphicconverter.net](http://www.graphicconverter.net). At \$30, it's a bargain. The \$99 Photoshop Elements is much more than a light version of Photoshop. Find the review in the July, 2001 issue or online at [www.machome.com](http://www.machome.com). Both products have a lot to offer, but look to Photoshop Elements for a polished interface and editing tools like those in Photoshop.*

## It's Digital, Analog, and a Dessert Topping

I love your magazine — it reaches ALL of us — and an item in the May issue has me bursting with feedback.... Sandy Brundage rightly tackles the frustration of how to get your old analog tapes into iMovie, but here's another important point. For years



many of us have been capturing the family hi-jinks and heritage with 8mm or Hi8 camcorders. If these are the core of a library that you want to go digital, the answer is simplicity itself; buy one of the Sony Digital8 camcorders. These beauties are a great value, use inexpensive Hi8 tape to produce fabulous pictures — and they're backwards compatible! Just slip your old tapes in, and — voila! — out comes a digital signal without the need to buy an expensive converter box. Also you can "pass through" other analog signals with one of these cameras. It's really super that it handles old tapes (and, no, I don't work for Sony).

Art Ross

*That article was about using analog video cameras with iMovie, but you bring up a good idea for people who want to buy a new camcorder. Keep in mind, though, that a new video camera will cost about three times as much as an analog-to-digital converter. MH*

## Did You Know...

A digital video camera records its signal as ones and zeros — something your Mac can understand. Any analog camera needs a converter to use footage on your computer.

the address could not be found. Then I got a message that your web site was being re-designed.

In the June issue in the letters column an editors note suggests to visit [machome.com](http://machome.com) to access both current and more than a thousand back reviews. Am I doing something wrong or does the right hand not know what the left is doing at the magazine?

Rob Swearingner

## write to us...

Please write us with your comments! All letters are assumed intended for publication and may be edited. You can reach us by snail mail at: 703 Market Street, Suite 535, San Francisco, CA 94103, or by email:

[letters@machome.com](mailto:letters@machome.com)



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## Spotlight on Apple

**Apple CEO Steve Jobs** delivered a few surprises during his keynote at the San Jose Worldwide Developers Conference in May. First, OS X began shipping pre-installed on new computer systems, two months ahead of schedule. "The train has left the station," Jobs said. The default operating system is still OS 9.1, for those not ready to leap into OSX.

Next, Jobs waved goodbye to Apple's CRT monitors. The company is moving to all LCD thin flat panel displays; along with this news came the announcement of a new 17" Studio Display (\$999), and price cuts on the 22" Cinema Display (now \$2499). The 15" monitor in the Studio series is \$599.

Apple's retail stores have opened across the United States. The outlets display the style plus substance

motif we've come to expect from Apple, with rows and rows of over 300 Mac programs alongside a Genius Bar staffed by an expert who will answer any question you care to voice about a Mac. The first two locations (Glendale, California and McLean, Virginia) sold \$599,000 worth of merchandise over opening weekend. Even if you don't buy anything, you won't leave without gain — each store runs demonstrations to teach customers how to use iMovie, iDVD, and other popular software. Go to [www.apple.com/retail](http://www.apple.com/retail) to walk through a store in QuickTime. Apple, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com), 800-692-7753

## Tracking OS X

TechTracker has announced TechTracker Pro for OS X, an extension of its popular software management tool that lets users easily upgrade existing software and find new OS X releases. Running as a native Cocoa app, the TechTracker Pro Client automatically creates a list of installed software, and lets you know when any program needs to be updated. Online, TechTracker for Pro OS X gives you a personalized home page on VersionTracker.com to track third-party software by category or keyword. Just connect to the VersionTracker.com website when you're ready to upgrade a program, and download the update directly.

*TechTracker*, [www.techtracker.com](http://www.techtracker.com), 503-227-2571

## Look Ma, No Wires

**Asanté is now selling** the FriendlyNET FR3002AL (\$349), a new upgradeable wireless router designed for homes and small businesses who need to share high-speed Internet service. Once the included AeroLAN PCMCIA adapter card is plugged into the router, your AirPort devices will be networked. A 10/100 Mbps switch, built-in print server and firewall round out the system.



Asanté, [www.asante.com](http://www.asante.com), 800-566-6680

**The XRouter Aero** (\$299) allows wired or wireless users to share access to the Internet using only one cable or DSL modem, the integrated 10/100 Mbps switch, and one ISP. A built-in firewall helps keep the network safe from crackers. The Aero can be used with any AirPort-compliant device, doesn't need drivers, and configures via web browser, making it easy to install and use.

Dr. Bott, [www.drbot.com](http://www.drbot.com), 877-611-2688

## Get in Sync

**Mac users can now** synchronize their Palms or Handspring Visors via Schedule Online, a cross-platform scheduling and collaboration web site. The free utility ScheduleOnline Sync gives Palm OS users instant access from any location to their calendar, to do list, and address data, including those that were entered at the web site by colleagues or community group members.

*Schedule Online*, [www.scheduleonline.com](http://www.scheduleonline.com), 888-668-3355

## Tell us what you think!

In the past several months we've changed MacHome based on your feedback. Please take a moment to let us know what's working and what can still improve. Our survey will only take 2 minutes and we'll automatically enter you into a drawing for some great MacHome items. Thanks!

[www.machome.com/augfeedback](http://www.machome.com/augfeedback)



## Oh, Shoot!

**Two digital** cameras debuted recently on the heights of Olympus.

First, there's the 2.1

megapixel D-510 Zoom (\$499), which is a 3X optical/9X digital zoom camera with a 1.8" LCD monitor. The D-510 Zoom replaces Olympus' highly successful D-490 Zoom with a smaller body and USB autoconnect technology for "no software required" image downloads to a Mac. Inside the small silver body, the D-510 Zoom shoots a maximum resolution of 1,600 x 1,200 pixels. Other features include a QuickTime Movie mode.

Next in the Olympus line is the 1.3 megapixel Brio D-150 (\$449), which is an upgrade to the Brio D-100 model. Now with 3X optical/6X digital zoom, the black and gold D-150 features a high quality lens, programmed settings like autofocus, a pop-up flash, shutter release times of under one second, and USB AutoConnect.

Olympus, [www.olympusamerica.com](http://www.olympusamerica.com), 877-337-1507



## Kensington Tracks OS X

**Kensington's Turbo** Mouse Pro Trackball (\$110) is one of the first accessories to cooperate with Mac OS X. Think buttons, lots of programmable buttons — six Direct Launch buttons can be preset to instantly access favorite websites or crucial documents; four other buttons help streamline repetitive tasks with single-click functionality. The mouse can be configured for either right or left-handed users.

Kensington, [www.kensington.com](http://www.kensington.com), 800-280-8318



## Standing Watch on OS X

**Rainbow Technologies** jumped on the OS X bandwagon with its company's SentinelEve3 software business security solution. The Eve3 provides full software application security for Mac OS X applications via an easy-to-use, easy-to-install USB security key. You can configure password-protected memory as read-write, read-only, or challenge-response cells. For \$28 per key, you get 10 to 20 keys, putting the price within reach of a small business. Volume discounts are available.

Rainbow Technologies, [www.rainbow.com](http://www.rainbow.com), 800-852-8569

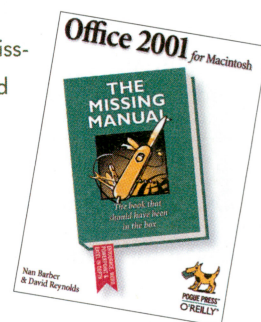
## For Bookworms

**Collect Mac OS X tips and tricks** by flipping through Mac OS X for Dummies (\$22) by Bob LeVitus and Shelly Brisbin. Aimed at new owners and intermediate users with a sense of humor, it covers everything from installation to file management to optimizing your Mac for the best OS X performance. Read the table of contents and a sample chapter of the 360-page book online (<http://catalog.dummies.com/product.asp?isbn=0764507060>) to find out more.

Hungry Minds, [www.dummies.com](http://www.dummies.com), 800-762-2974

**Office 2001 for Macintosh:** The Missing Manual (\$30) by David Reynolds and Nan Barber is here to answer all your questions about the best-selling Mac application suite in 648 pages. If you only know how to write a letter in Word but want to learn everything from how to download a web page into Excel or how to design a PowerPoint slideshow, this book is a mind-saver. "Chapter 2: Editing in Word" is available free online in PDF format ([www.oreilly.com/catalog/msoff-macmm/chapter/index.html](http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/msoff-macmm/chapter/index.html)).

O'Reilly, [www.oreilly.com](http://www.oreilly.com), 800-998-9938



## Iomega Peerless

**Need portable storage?** Who doesn't? Iomega is trying to meet the demand with its new Peerless drive system. Disk cartridges of 10GB (\$160) or 20GB (\$200) slip into a base station that's about the size of a PDA. The base is available in USB or FireWire configurations. Bought separately, it costs \$250, but it is also sold as a bundle with one 20GB disk for \$400.

Iomega, [www.iomega.com](http://www.iomega.com), 888-446-6342





## What Does a New Game Company Mean?

**More games, of course.** Peter Tampte, formerly of MacSoft, Apple, and Bungie, is now leading Destineer. Bold, its Mac publishing branch, has the option to bring any Microsoft game to the Mac OS. While there are practical obstacles to porting every Microsoft game, Bold expects to deliver the top PC hits. In fact, it's already started. Age of Empires II will be released in October 2001, with Links 2002 rolling in November. Stay tuned for a release date for Microsoft Flight Simulator 2002. Destineer also has a development branch, now called Destineer Studios, which will create original Mac and PC games simultaneously. Expect it to tempt us with news on its titles next year.



## Scantastic

**Epson has launched** five new flatbed USB scanners into the consumer-level market. The Perfection series has models ranging from \$129 to \$399 that can handle photos, graphic art and the wide variety of documents found within a small office.

The entry-level scanners, for home and education users, are the Perfection 1250 (\$129) and the 1250 PHOTO (\$149).

Press just one button to scan at up to 1,200 optical dots per inch and 48-bit color. Digital interpolation increases the resolution to 9,600 dpi. Color scanning speed rates at 36 msec/line, according to Epson. Monochrome takes 12 msec/line. The 1250 PHOTO also comes with a transparency adapter for scanning 35mm film, slides, and transparencies.

Next in line are the Perfection 1650 (\$199) and 1650 PHOTO (\$249). These scanners bump

the optical resolution to 1,600 dpi, with the same 48-bit color scanning, making them fit well into the SOHO environ-

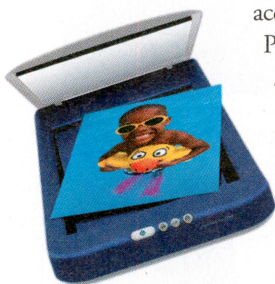
ment. With digital enhancement, the resolu-

tion increases to 12,800 dpi. Scanning speeds are the same as for the 1250 models. The "PHOTO" suffix once again indicates that the scanner comes with a 35mm adapter.

The Perfection 2450 PHOTO (\$399) is the flagship model. With 2,400 dpi optical resolution and 12,800 dpi interpolated resolution at 48-bit color, it's aimed at graphic artists and advanced amateur photographers. Scanning speeds are faster than the rest of the line, clocking in at 11 msec/line for color and 3.8 msec/line monochrome. The 2450 also offers a FireWire interface in addition to USB 2.0.

The Perfection line should ship in mid-August.

Epson, [www.epson.com](http://www.epson.com), 800-463-7766



## Think Different at Home

**Always Thinking can** give your house a brain. Thinking Home v1.15 For Mac OS X (\$39) automates the control of X10 appliances and lights. Run your house from the computer in the living room, or at any computer with Web access via Thinking Home's online interface. Seniors or anyone else who has trouble moving around can even command the machines by voice recognition. Say "Turn on the living room light" and voila, no more banging your shin on a table in a dark room!

To use the software with Apple's latest operating system, you'll need a USB serial adapter with OS X drivers, like any Keyspan adapter whose name ends in X (the USA 28X, for instance.) Thinking Home v1.15 also supports OS 9 without needing an adapter. An earlier version of the program, v1.12, runs on System 7 and Mac OS 8.

How do you know if your appliances are X10 compatible? Easy — you make them that way. Just plug the light or appliance into an X10 module, then plug the module into a wall outlet. Check out X10.Com ([www.x10.com](http://www.x10.com)) for ordering information; expect to pay around \$30 per device.

Always Thinking, [www.alwaysthinking.com](http://www.alwaysthinking.com), 800-556-9559

## Super-Sonnet Speed

**Sonnet broke the** speed limit on its Crescendo PCI upgrades by introducing a new 450MHz G3 upgrade card, with a suggested retail price of \$300. If you've had your eye on a different card, Sonnet also cut prices by as much as \$150 across the rest of its G3 and G4 processor line, including cards in the NuBus and Encore series.

Sonnet, [www.sonnettech.com](http://www.sonnettech.com), 800-786-6260



## Canon PowerShot S110 Digital Elph



**The 2.1 megapixel** PowerShot S110 (\$599) is the latest spawn from Canon's popular Digital Elph line of cameras. About the size of a fist, the S110 can shoot still photos at up to 1,600 x 1,200 resolution with a 2X optical zoom, or film QuickTime movies at a maximum 640 x 480 resolution while maintaining a steady 20 frames per second clip.

The S110, like the other PowerShot models, can connect via USB to a computer. But a new feature bypasses the computer by allowing the camera to hook up to Canon's CP-10 printer, letting users to control all print settings from the camera's 1.5" LCD monitor.

Bundled software includes ArcSoft PhotoImpression and VideoImpression, along with QuickTime 4.1. The camera also ships with an 8MB CompactFlash memory card for image storage.

Canon, [www.usa.canon.com](http://www.usa.canon.com), 800-652-2666

## SpinImage DV Object Imaging Kit

**eBayers, rejoice! Now you too can** have virtual reality models of your auction goods posted alongside the 'For Sale' sign. Kaidan and Autolycus have teamed up to offer the SpinImage DV Object Imaging Kit (\$400) which creates a digital 3D model of any object you place on the included turntable. Connect your FireWire camcorder (not included) to the Mac, power-up the spinning turntable, and in minutes you'll have a QuickTime VR movie of the object.

Kaidan and Autolycus, [www.spinimagedv.com](http://www.spinimagedv.com), 215-364-1778



## Look on the Thin Side

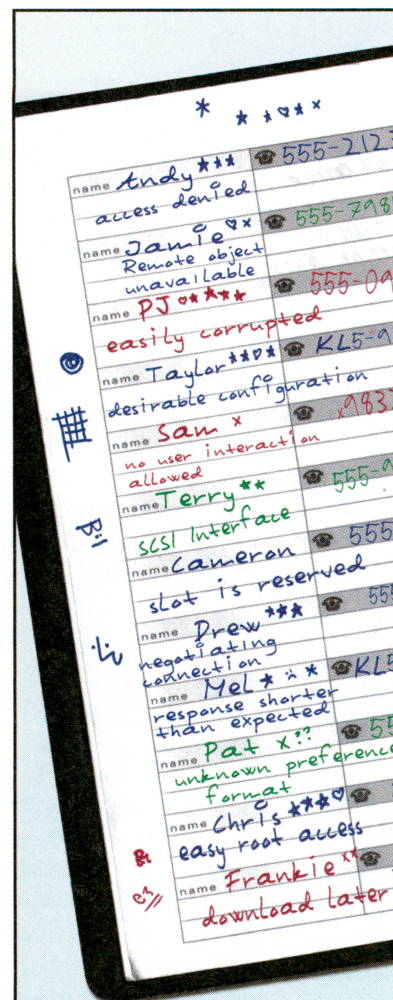
**Someday monitors will** be as thin as a single sheet of paper. Until then, check out ViewSonic's VE150m 15" LCD ViewPanel (\$499). Barely over an inch thick, it boasts a maximum resolution of 1,024 x 768 and internal speakers. It's also the first LCD monitor to automatically optimize signal reception for each resolution, giving you a better image with less fuss.

ViewSonic, [www.viewsonic.com](http://www.viewsonic.com), 800-888-8583

## iRez CapSureUSB

**The tiny 2" x 3" CapSureUSB** (\$100) device from iRez lets you watch 640 x 480 video with full audio, and also grabs video. Included with the CapSureUSB is a suite of application software including iREZ Reel-Eyes, an application for video capture, viewing, and editing.

iRez, [www.irez.com](http://www.irez.com), 480-922-1415



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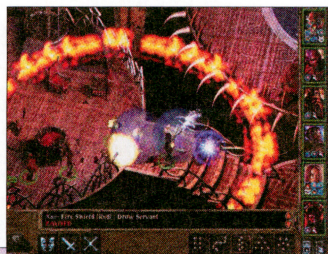
Part of the TechTracker network.



## Mac Uber Alles at E3

**Well, not really.** Both the Mac and PC platforms were deluged by console titles, as Microsoft's Xbox, Sony's Playstation 2 and Nintendo's GameCube squared off. But as Al Schilling of MacSoft said: "I've never been so excited about Mac games before." MacSoft showcased powerhouse titles, including Masters of Orion III, Civilization III, Tropico, and Fly! II.

MOO III is a significant leap forward for the popular real-time strategy franchise. The QuickSilver development team is adding a fifth X to the traditional 4X strategy design (explore, expand, exploit, exterminate) — experience. Mac OS X is on MacSoft's mind — you can look forward to running the latest games on Apple's latest operating system. And lest you think we've seen the last of Myth, you'd be wrong!



Mumbo Jumbo put Myth III: The Wolf Age through its gorgeous paces at E3. The 3D game is set a thousand years before its predecessors. MacSoft will hopefully publish this title in November.

Apple made the show with a small, busy room stocked with G4s happily powering Mac titles with OS X, including Baldur's Gate II, Tony Hawk Pro Skater 2, and American McGee's Alice. A round of Quake III got

underway, and we suspect that many of the participants were never again seen on the show floor.

MacPlay plans to ship Baldur's Gate II by the time the Macworld Expo New York kicks off — check out our preview on page 56 for the scoop.

MacPlay will also deliver Icewind Dale, Starfleet Command: Empires at War,

Fighter Squadron: Screamin' Demons Over Europe, action game Giants: Citizen Kabuto, and the real-time strategy game Sacrifice.

Aspyr has The Sims: House Party rocking. Also on tap are Tomb Raider: Chronicles and Tomb Raider: Trilogity.

Summoner and Red Faction, a first person shooter where anything can be blown up, are on the way from GraphSim. Our Summoner review is on page 60. Red Faction explodes this fall.

No sooner were roleplaying games declared dead than Bioware popped up to say, "We're not dead yet!" The creators of Baldur's Gate are raising the bar with Neverwinter Nights, which lets one player guide others through an adventure. Too much work? Neverwinter Nights also has a story all its own. The game should run natively on OS X when it's released next year.

Adventure games were also written off, but nescience proves blind. Arxel Tribe will deliver Hitchcock and Casanova to the Mac. Dreamcatcher Interactive brings Beyond Atlantis and Atlantis: The New World.

In the "Not forgotten, but gone?" category lies Deep Space Nine: The Fallen from Simon and Schuster Interactive. The sound library problem causing the delay may be resolved. Cross your fingers; The Fallen may be shipping soon.

Click-fest RPG Diablo II: Lord of Destruction and real-time strategy Warcraft III: Reign of Chaos look fantastic, like most of Blizzard's games, but won't be arriving any time soon as the production team takes the time to polish every last detail. Blizzard plans on Carbonizing both games to run smoothly with Mac OS X.

## So Long, and Thanks for all the Laughs

**The abrupt death of Douglas Adams in May** left a gap in the universe that will simply never be filled. Developers at PAN Interactive, who had been working closely with the author, will

continue work on the 3D version of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, which first came to the game scene as a text adventure from Infocom. "We are still stunned by that fact that Mr. Adams is gone," said Sara Hedin, market

coordinator for PAN. "We will proceed making the game, now in the honour of his name and to his memory."

PAN Interactive, [www.paninteractive.se](http://www.paninteractive.se)



## Cross-Terrain Challenge

**Cross Terrain Challenge (\$20)**, a new chapter in Knowledge Adventure's Math Blaster series, is now out. Players ages 9-12 race through an obstacle course of mental workouts designed to strengthen critical-thinking skills. A variety of arcade-style missions and difficulty levels add replay value.

Knowledge Adventure,  
[www.knowledgeadventure.com](http://www.knowledgeadventure.com),  
800-542-4240



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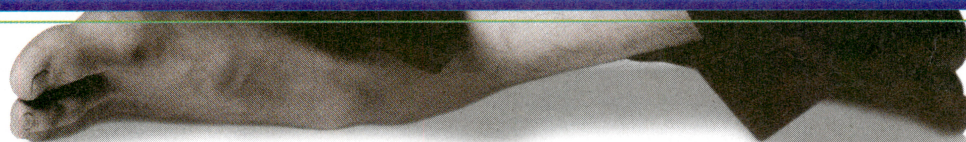
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# Editors' Choice Awards

Yes, it's time for us to play favorites. Readers always want to know how we choose the award-winning products (usually by sending an email that says, "What were you thinking??"), so we thought we'd give a little insight into the process this year with a transcript of the no-holds-barred editorial discussion:

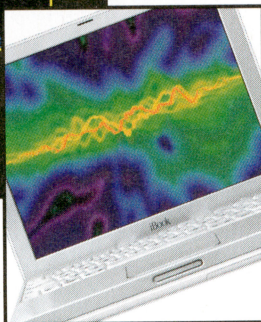
*By MacHome Staff*



733MHz G4



iBook 2001



## Desktop: 733MHz G4

(Apple, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com), 800-692-7753)

**Zack:** The 733MHz G4 is the clear winner and not just because it's available in any color as long as it's graphite. In addition to boasting the speediest performance of any Mac, the reason that this is the go-to machine is, in a buzzword, SuperDrive. After throwing together the iMovies (or sweating over Final Cut), you can burn a DVD that will play in your TV's DVD player.

**Chris:** Feeling a little power hungry, Zack? The 733MHz is certainly built for speed and flexibility, but it comes at hefty price: \$3,499. Pick up a 600MHz iMac instead (\$1,499), and for the difference in cost you could purchase an extra 256MB RAM, an external DVD-RAM drive, Toast 5 Titanium, a round trip to the Caribbean, a small dog, and several bags of Spicy Doritos. Now that's value.

**Zack:** It doesn't burn DVDs. The iMac is a great value, but now people know what to do with finished iMovies. I win. I win. I mean, the G4 wins. Pass me the Doritos.

## Laptop: iBook 2001

(Apple, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com), 800-692-7753)

**Zack:** 2001 iBook. While I liked 2000's option, the 2001 looks better — so much better. The Titanium PowerBook G4 is a solid machine, but the iBook edges it out. The iBook is spiral-notebook small, 500MHz-quick, and even gives you video out in RCA and SVGA flavors for a TV or monitor.

**Chris:** The Madonna Makeover of the Year award goes to the iBook. The product has shrugged off its association with bulk and bright colors to become a svelte, ultra-light goddess in white.

**Sandy:** My vote goes to the iBook, too, even though I've only admired it from afar. Zack won't let it out of his grasp. Perhaps one day I will be worthy.

## PDA: Palm m500

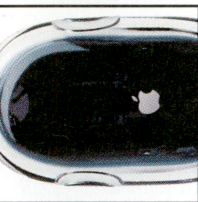
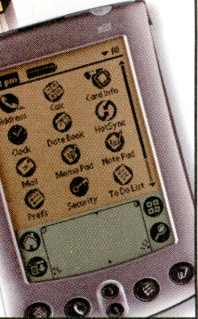
(Palm, [www.palm.com](http://www.palm.com), 800-881-7256)

**Zack:** Tough call. I like the m500.

**Chris:** But the m105 does almost all of the same things at half the price. Sure, it's not sleek and silver, but it does have that handy window in the display cover so that you can see the time. What are you thinking?

**Zack:** I'll tell you what I'm thinking. Palm snuck into Handspring's proverbial locker room and stole not only a page, but the whole PDA playbook. Previous Palm devices had been the kicker of information management.





Apple Pro Mouse

**Chris:** Maybe so. Now, what exactly do you mean by "kicker?"

**Zack:** Well, take the m105. Like older Palms, it's a solid option, but limited to a few uses, though like a good kicker (say Gary Anderson) you can count on it.

**Chris:** I see. So, even though you can get additional faceplates for the m105 (like your favorite, the leopard print), you're saying that it isn't going to throw for a 300-yard passing game?

**Zack:** Right. The m500 however, getting back to the locker room, has a slot that's new to Palm devices. Applying the concept of previous Handspring PDAs, the m500 can take third-party peripherals. If I want to add a GPS module or some as-yet-unconceived device that will track the Vikings' draft choices, I can.

**Chris:** Can we talk about hockey now? I'm Canadian and football confuses me.

#### Input Device:

##### Apple Pro Mouse

(Apple, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com), 800-692-7753)

**Zack:** I'm going with the Apple Pro mouse, though I'll admit it's not the best mouse out there. No, I give it the nod here because it's standard issue with all desktop Macs, and it's optical. Now every third-party mouse seems to be offered as optical, where it doesn't have any moving parts. Instead, the mouse bounces an LED beam off the table and back to a sensor. The mouse then perceives movement whenever the LED beam shifts.

Apple, I salute you for again leading the curve.

#### Printer: Epson Stylus Color 777

(Epson, [www.epson.com](http://www.epson.com), 800-463-7766)

**Chris:** You'd be hard pressed to find a better value than the Epson Stylus Color 777 (say that ten times fast). Its fine dot size and high resolution allow it to churn out images that challenge the

quality of modern photographic prints.

#### Scanner: Agfa Snapscan e40

(Agfa, [www.agfa.com](http://www.agfa.com), 201-440-2500)

**Chris:** Agfa Snapscan e40. This scanner immediately drew my attention because of its brightly colored handle. It also rocks with true 1,200 x 2,400 optical resolution and 42-bit color for just \$129, making it a great choice for the home office.

#### Networking Product:

##### AirPort Card (Apple,

[www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com), 800-692-7753)

**Chris:** AirPort card. Drop an AirPort card into any Macintosh and you're ready to surf wirelessly. I can't imagine a more liberating development in networking.

**Zack:** This is the best idea you've had all day. These are must-haves if you want to go wireless, and you can even set up a network without an AirPort Base Station. Once you try surfing from the roof (stop by my place sometime, you'll never go back to a tethered world.

**Chris:** Agreed. It's incredibly liberating to simply drive by my house, open my iBook, check for mail, and keep on going. And it helps me avoid my family, too!

#### Hard drive: SmartDisk VST FireWire Hard Drive

(VST, [www.vsttech.com](http://www.vsttech.com), 978-635-8200)

**Sandy:** SmartDisk VST FireWire Drive.

**Zack:** Sure.

**Sandy:** Are you feeling all right? You never agree with me.

**Zack:** Oh wait. I was thinking about Jay Leno. Will the hilarity ever end? So why do you like this fast, slim, bus-powered drive? Did I answer my own question?

**Sandy:** Yes.



SmartDisk VST FireWire Drive



DiskOnKey



Epson Stylus Color 777

#### CD Burner: LaCie PocketCDRW

(LaCie, [www.lacie.com](http://www.lacie.com), 503-844-4502)

**Zack:** This category was surprisingly easy. We tend to get inundated with some types of products, and CD burners is one of those varieties. But the PocketCDRW stands above its crowded field. In a tiny enclosure that's about the same size as a few CD cases stacked together, you can have a solid burner for the road. Use USB (and the included power supply) for versatility, or smoke along with bus-powered FireWire (and leave your power supply cables at home).

#### Portable Storage:

##### DiskOnKey

(M-Systems, [www.diskonkey.com](http://www.diskonkey.com))

**Zack:** When a product causes such turmoil over who gets to play with it ("It's my turn." "No, mine!") it has to be good.

**Sandy:** Or else your judgment is warped. Why fight over peripherals?

**Zack:** Right. Anyway, while I'd pass on the name, DiskOnKey packs both style and substance. Quite simply, it's a little chip of RAM inside a small case that is a USB plug. You plug the whole unit into your computer and you've got a 16MB or 32MB removable storage unit. It's small enough to keep on your key ring, so important data is always accessible.

#### Digital Camcorder:

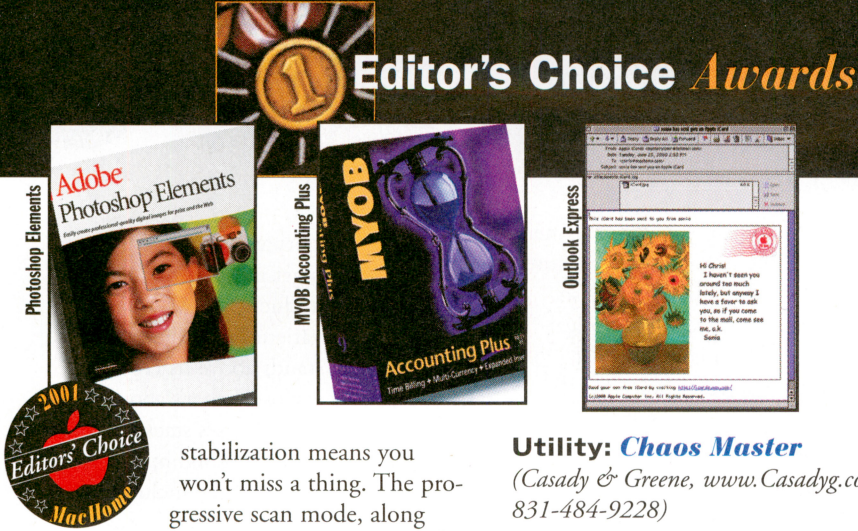
##### Canon Elura2 MC

(Canon, [www.canon.com](http://www.canon.com), 800-652-2666)

**Sandy:** Canon's Elura2 MC. So small and quiet that you can leave it running in the corner of Zack's office for hours and he won't notice. Canon's 10X optical and 40X digital zoom with no-shake







## Editor's Choice Awards

stabilization means you won't miss a thing. The progressive scan mode, along with manual or automatic

options, make your video look slick and still gives easy-as-you-please importing into iMovie for editing mojo. And throw in a MultiMedia Card for extra photo storage, and — Oh. Hi, Zack.

**Zack:** Did you catch that over-the-shoulder shot into the trash can I made with your paycheck yesterday? Poetry in motion.

### Digital Camera: Kodak DC3400

(Kodak, [www.kodak.com](http://www.kodak.com), 888-368-6600)

**Chris:** Kodak DC3400. This modestly priced camera offers 2.0 megapixel images, a 2X zoom, and host of other professional camera options that are easily navigated through a consumer-friendly user interface.

**Sandy:** Don't forget black-and-white mode. Some of us real photographers find that important, you know. Particularly since the Kodak DC3400 lets us shoot without memorizing hundreds of instructions.

### Analog-Video Converter: Formac Studio

(Formac, [www.formac.com](http://www.formac.com), 877-436-7622)

**Zack:** Dazzle's Hollywood DV and Formac's Studio are similar beasts; both import analog video footage into a FireWire Mac. The Formac Studio has extra features, however, with a TV-tuner, and it can use just its FireWire cable for power.

**Sandy:** If only it could turn bad footage into good.

### Utility: Chaos Master

(Casady & Greene, [www.Casadyg.com](http://www.Casadyg.com), 831-484-9228)

**Zack:** Sure, you've got your Nortons, TechTools, and Disc Warriors, but they're not fun. Recovering data or resurrecting your computer is serious business, and these tools handle those tasks well. But for something both useful and cool, you need Chaos Master.

Chaos Master is a file maintenance utility. It'll rummage through your computer to toss extra copies of applications (quick break: How many copies of Simple Text do you have?), locate files that aren't opened by any application by default, and more. At the top of the list is the tool that syncs online with VersionTracker.com and cross-references the version numbers of your applications.

### SOHO Product: MYOB Accounting Plus

(MYOB, [www.myob.com](http://www.myob.com), 800-322-6962)

**Sandy:** MYOB Accounting Plus. Mind your business without getting a degree in accounting first. Billing, inventory, payroll, to do lists, you name it, MYOB Accounting Plus makes it as simple as flipping through *The Wall Street Journal* every morning.

**Zack:** Enough said.

**Chris:** Thank god.

### Email Application: Outlook Express

(Microsoft, [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com), 800-246-9400)

**Chris:** Outlook Express. It slices! It dices! It sorts my email, displays HTML and checks my spelling. And it's com-

pletely free. What more could you want?

**Zack:** I'd like a calendar and Palm synchronization of said calendar.

Actually these are quite useful in an email app. Funny — Microsoft Entourage does just this.

**Chris:** You're so needy.

**Zack:** Say Susan has an appointment for me to attend with Symantec. She types it into her calendar, then she invites me to the appointment. An email is whisked over to me and I accept the request. My Entourage then adds the appointment to my calendar (and therefore my Palm), and notifies Susan that I'll be there via email. Sandy, what more could you want?

**Sandy:** I'm not so demanding, Zack. Less is more. Outlook Express does everything I need without cluttering my hard drive with stuff I'll never use. Besides, no one ever invites me anywhere.

### Image Editor: Adobe Photoshop Elements

(Adobe, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com), 800-833-6687)

**Chris:** Adobe Photoshop Elements. At the risk of sounding like a public relations spokesperson on his fourth cup of coffee, I must say this low-priced alternative to Photoshop offers intelligent help, clever consumer tools, and an easy-to-navigate interface.

**Zack:** Chris, I thought for a moment that you'd lost your taste, Outlook Express and all. You could have gone for Photoshop 6.0, and I know you were thinking about it, but Elements is a greater step forward. With its layers, filters, and other tricks, you may never miss the pro package.

### Movie-Making Software: iMovie

(Apple, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com), 800-692-7753)

**Chris:** iMovie. Or perhaps Final Cut Pro, if you've got \$1,000 to spare and a month or two to read the 1,500-page manual.

**Zack:** Yes, iMovie rocks; there's no easier way to create great video with powerful options like multiple audio tracks and visual effects. Final Cut Pro 2.0 is just

Deus Ex



Backyard Soccer







what you need for a professional tilt.

**Sandy:** Who needs thousands of pages? iMovie follows my favorite rule — Keep It Simple, Stupid.

## Music Management

### Software: *iTunes*

(Apple, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com), 800-692-7753)

**Zack:** iTunes will convert your CDs to MP3s, burn audio CDs, and tune in Internet radio stations. It even has a beautiful navigation system where you type a few letters of any song title, band, or disc name, and it'll give you all the hits. iTunes is it.

**Chris:** Agreed. Apple really kicked the competition where it hurts with this extraordinary application.

**Sandy:** Did we mention iTunes?

### Game: *Deus Ex*

(Aspyr, [www.aspyr.com](http://www.aspyr.com), 888-212-7797)

**Chris:** Escape from Monkey Island is hilarious, and doesn't require the latest gee-whiz graphic accelerator. And then of course, there's monkeys.

**Zack:** I thought we had an understanding, Chris. Monkeys are neat. Monkey Island games are even better. I've played them all. I even like to mention at any opportunity that I emulated Monkey Island 3, which was only released for the PC. But there's an original title out there this year—

**Sandy:** Deus Ex! Sorry, I just couldn't wait.

**Zack:** That's okay. Sing for us the praises of Deus Ex.

**Sandy:** An action-oriented, story-driven first-person shooter with role-playing elements — bliss. Deus Ex lets your choices tune its story. Which brings me to a question. What was Rafi thinking when he gave it less than a perfect score?

**Zack:** Our friends at AT&T will get Rafi on the phone.

**Rafi:** Hello?

**Sandy:** Rafi, What were

you thinking when you gave Deus Ex a 4.5 out of 5 in the November 2000 issue?

**Rafi:** Let me turn down the clown music here so that I can concentrate a little better. I guess, I think the game is a real RAM hog since you're asking me. And the story...well that was good, the action...hmmm...that was also great. The RAM and hardware requirements to play were, well just...

BBBBRRRTTT

**Sandy:** Sorry, Rafi, time's up!

## Family Software:

### *Starry Night Pro*

(SPACE Software, [www.starrynight.com](http://www.starrynight.com), 416-410-0259)

**Sandy:** Starry Night Pro is simple enough that even if you confuse astronomy and astrology, you'll have a blast touring the universe. But if you know the difference between a pulsar and a photon torpedo, Starry Night Pro will make you feel smarter than a NASA engineer designing a Mars probe.

## Kids Software: *Backyard Soccer: MLS Edition*

(Humongous, [www.humongous.com](http://www.humongous.com), 800-499-8386)

**Zack:** I sure liked Backyard Soccer: MLS Edition. Without any grown-up soccer games on the Mac (hint-hint game publishers), I checked this one out. There's enough action in there to tide me over for a while and hope for a full-blown soccer game. Oh, and I'm sure kids will like it too.

**Sandy:** Any time a game has adults and kids fighting over the computer, it's a winner.

**Chris:** Kids use computers?

## Productivity Application:

### *Microsoft Office 2001*

(Microsoft, [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com), 800-246-9400)

**Chris:** Microsoft Office. Of course, that's about as surprising as President Bush's fascination with fossil fuels.

**Sandy:** AppleWorks 6, particularly with OS X running. Not as feature-fat as

Office 2001, but it's got all the tools I actually use.

**Zack:** While there are a few Davids out there to contest Word's Goliath (read: Nisus Writer; oh, and a little app called AppleWorks) I still like Word 2001's power. Of the rest of the suite, Excel is nice, and Entourage owns my life.

## Toy:

### *The Sims*

(Aspyr, [www.aspyr.com](http://www.aspyr.com), 888-212-7797)

**Chris:** Harmon Kardon Sound Sticks. They look cool and sound even better.

**Sandy:** No way. What, you wave Sound Sticks around like maracas? The Sims. Now that's a toy. Little people pursuing little lives thanks to your benevolent guidance. Any resemblance to real-life delusions of godhood is entirely coincidental.

## Product of the Year:

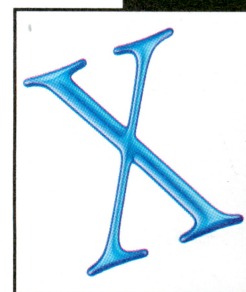
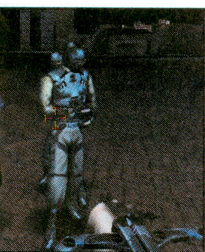
### *Mac OS X*

(Apple, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com), 800-692-7753)

**Zack:** Mac OS X. It's the future of operating systems. I can switch to other applications while one is thinking, and if I crash, I don't have to restart.

**Chris:** I have to agree (and not because you are paying me.) Although I hate running older applications in Classic, the slick Aqua interface is backed by a host of technologies in Mac OS X that has ushered in a bright era of computing for all Mac users.

**Sandy:** About time you two came to your senses. And I get the last word. **MH**



Microsoft Office 2001

Mac OS X



# Open Access

Customizing the Mac for Special Needs

By Sandy Brundage

Computers have come a long way from the days of punchcards and mainframes the size of trucks. But the problems faced by blind, deaf, or paralyzed users, for example, are timeless.

Luckily, the same innovative drive that leads to smaller, faster, and cheaper computers

also clears the way for development of technology that puts the power within reach of anyone who wants it.

There's a wide variety of humans for one computer to fit, but somehow the Mac pulls it off.

We're going to take a look at how your Mac can meet special needs, and what options are available to extend that ease of use.





Apple has devoted resources to assistive technology since 1997. The proof of its dedication lies within six features built into the control panels of Mac OS 7, 8, and 9. If you can't find these utilities on your Mac, download them from Apple's website ([www.apple.com/disability/easyaccess.html](http://www.apple.com/disability/easyaccess.html)). The file sizes range from 9k (EasyAccess) to 16k (CloseView), so it takes less than a minute to grab programs that can save you hours of frustration. Once the files are downloaded, their icons appear on the desktop. Drag the icons to the Control Panels folder on your hard drive. Restart your Mac, and you're ready to go.

## CloseView

CloseView is a screen enlarger. It magnifies all screen images (including text, graphics, the menu bar, and the mouse cursor) up to 16 times. In addition, it can display white text on a black background instead of the usual black on white, making it easier for people with visual impairments to read the screen. Here's how to put CloseView to use on your Mac.

**1.** Open the CloseView Control Panel. Click On. A black rectangle appears on the screen; the area inside the rectangle will be magnified once the magnification is set.

**2.** Select the degree of magnification by pressing the arrows in the Magnification box. The black rectangle centered around your cursor shrinks as you increase the magnification. It grows larger as you decrease it.

**3.** When you're ready for the magnification, click On within the Magnification box. The Macintosh screen will now be magnified. If you've blown the text up very large (say, with a magnification of 8X), don't be surprised if driving the cursor feels like trying to parallel park a Cadillac in a space the size of a motorscooter — small mouse motions equal huge cursor movements, so use subtle corrections until you get the cursor back to the arrows and choose a

smaller magnification setting. A quicker solution is to turn the magnification off for a moment.

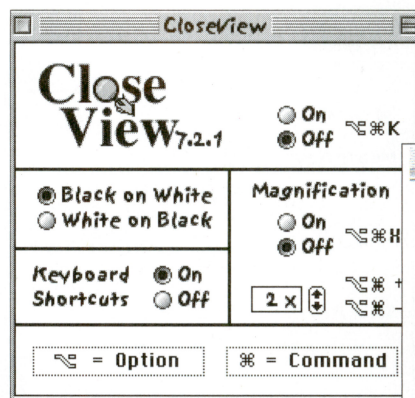
**4.** Make sure the button next to Keyboard Shortcuts is selected. To turn the magnification off, either click Off in the Magnification box, or hold down Command-Option-X.

**5.** To turn CloseView off, either press Off or, if Keyboard Shortcuts is enabled, hit Command-Option-O.

For extra visibility, invert the text with the White-on-Black button. The screen will change to display white letters on a black background, which is sometimes easier for people with visual disabilities to see. Clicking Black-on-White reverts the screen to black text on a white background.

## EasyAccess

EasyAccess is actually a set of four utilities designed to assist people who have



trouble with the keyboard and mouse. StickyKeys, MouseKeys, and SlowKeys are set up through one EasyAccess control panel. The fourth utility, Text-to-Speech, is handled a bit differently, but we'll show you how it's done.

Apple recommends turning Virtual

Memory off before using these tools. To do that, go to the Memory control panel. Check Off in the Virtual Memory box, then restart the Mac. Once that's done, follow along to get each utility set up to help you.

## MouseKeys

MouseKeys lets you control the cursor movements by tapping on the numeric keypad instead of maneuvering the mouse, making it useful for anyone who has difficulty making the small, precise motions required by the mouse.

**1.** Turn on MouseKeys by pressing Command-Shift-Clear simultaneously. You can also use the Easy Access control panel to turn MouseKeys on and off. You'll hear an electronic beep that indicates MouseKeys is now active. There's also a MouseKeys for PowerBooks (available at Apple's website), even though the laptop doesn't have a built-in numeric keypad. This version emulates the mouse using the standard PowerBook keyboard.



**Easy as 1-2-3** CloseView helps take the eye strain out of using a Mac. Find out more about free features like this at Apple's website ([www.apple.com/disability](http://www.apple.com/disability)).

Activating MouseKeys won't deactivate a mouse, so this utility is perfect for families who share the computer, but have different interface needs.

**2.** To direct the cursor with the keypad,



# Getting Connected

**Tom Garritano, public relations director** at the National Science Foundation, has seen firsthand what a difference technology can make. He helped create a community network in Knoxville, Tennessee, that provides Internet service to homebound people through KORRnet ([www.kornet.org](http://www.kornet.org)). "Any community can use a project like this; you don't need half a million dollars, just committed people," he said. "It's a lifeline for people stuck at home; it gives them a chance to get involved and bond with a community."

The KORRnet model has been adopted even as far away as Russia. Now it's part of the Alliance for Technology Access network ([www.ataaccess.org](http://www.ataaccess.org)), which has over 40 centers across the United States on a mission to connect children and adults with disabilities to technology tools. Check the website to see if there's a training center in your neighborhood.

out effect. For a child or adult with fine motor difficulties, this utility prevents the aggravation of having to delete unwanted keystrokes over and over.

One reader with Parkinson's disease described how frustrating it can be: "One problem that comes from having tremors in the hands is that a letter in a word can be duplicated, like this: onnnne othhher... it looks as though we stutter in writing or flunked spelling! After a while we just have to laugh at ourselves! Typing a message is tough as it is, and then

minute's worth of delay. Checking the box next to Use key click sound will give you audio feedback in the form of a beep whenever you press a key, so even with the delay you'll know that the computer got the keystroke.

**3.** Shutting SlowKeys off is as simple as choosing its Off button from the Easy Access control panel.

## StickyKeys

StickyKeys is a keylatch. This means that it can hold down keys for you when a key combination needs to be pressed. So if you need to make a capital letter, for instance, StickyKeys would let you just press one key at a time rather than having to hold down Shift while typing a letter. For someone who only has a single finger to type with or has a physical disability like arthritis that restricts mobility at the keyboard, the fewer key combos to press, the better.

**1.** Open the Easy Access control panel and click On to enable StickyKeys. You'll hear an electronic chirp as a bucket icon appears in the top right corner of the Finder's menu bar. You can also turn on StickyKeys without accessing the control panel by pressing Shift five times in a row.

**2.** Now you can use StickyKeys for sequences that require several keys to be held down simultaneously. For example,

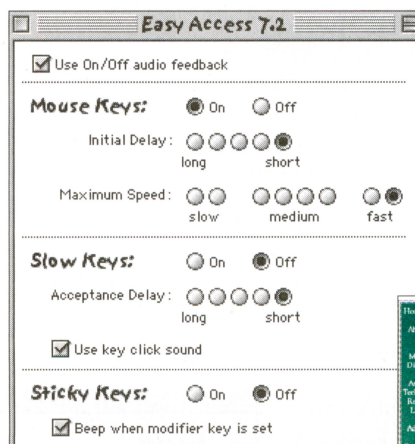
press 8 to move up and 2 to move down. Tapping 4 slides to the left, while 6 goes right. Now you can use the numeric keypad to direct mouse movements on the screen. Is there a "mouse button"? Of course — that would be key 5. To lock the cursor in place, tap 0. Hitting "." frees it again.

The default speed of MouseKeys is glacially slow, so you'll probably want to speed it up. Do this by opening the EasyAccess control panel once more. Look in the MouseKeys area. Experiment with the different settings for Initial Delay and Maximum speed to find a combination that will move the cursor as smoothly as if you were using a mouse instead of the keypad. Try "short" and "fast."

## SlowKeys

The middle section of the Easy Access control panel is devoted to setting up SlowKeys, which lets you change the length of time it takes for a keystroke to be registered on the screen. This allows for several keys to be pressed accidentally with-

going back over it takes more energy. Many times we just say, 'hell with it' and make no corrections." Hopefully this is a frustration that SlowKeys alleviates.

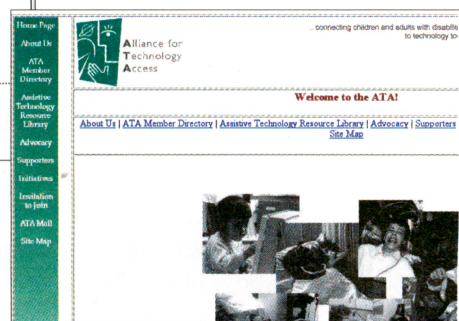


**Nice and Slow** EasyAccess slows your keyboard's sensitivity to cut down on accidental keystrokes and key combos.

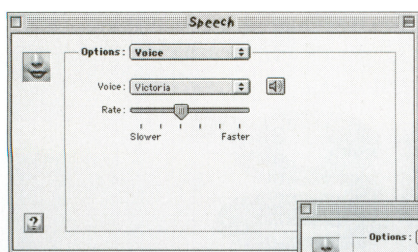
**1.** Turn on SlowKeys by opening up the Easy Access control panel. You'll hear a string of electronic beeps once SlowKeys is activated.

**2.** Play with Acceptance Delay on the control panel to figure out how long a delay you want. "Short" is actually over a

to make a capital letter after you've turned on StickyKeys, press Shift once. An arrow will appear above the bucket icon, letting you know that the key you just pressed has been stored in memory. The next letter you type will be capitalized. The arrow







### Did You Say Something?

Configure the Mac's built-in voice commands, add a microphone, and the audience will be listening.

disappears once you've typed the letter, meaning that following letters won't be capitalized until you tell StickyKeys to do so again.

**3.** Turn the utility off by pressing the Shift key five times in a row or go to the EasyAccess control panel and click Off in the StickyKeys section.

### That's Unspeakable! Not.

Did you know that the Mac responds to voice commands? Speakable Items is Apple's speech recognition program. Unlike iListen or ViaVoice, Speakable Items doesn't make you train the software first before you can use it, even though the vocabulary can be customized. It's designed for navigation, not dictation like those other programs, and it's already part of your system software.

Install Speakable Items by going to the Custom Install section of your Mac OS Installer and selecting the box next to Speakable Items, or by finding it within the CD Extras folder on the operating system CD. Can't find it? Turn to Apple ([www.apple.com/macos/speech/](http://www.apple.com/macos/speech/)).

Once installed, a Speakable Items section will appear on the Speech control panel. Check On to get started. Select "Recognize buttons such as OK or cancel" to control buttons like Yes, No, or Quit on pop-up windows.

There are several options for how the computer listens for instructions. Go to the Listening section of the Speech control panel. Now you can tell the computer to always listen, or — and this makes more sense if you plan on carrying on conversations with anyone else while using the Mac — choose "Listen only

while key(s) are pressed". Esc is the default key, but you can change that from this panel. You can even call the computer by name. Just enter the name you want it

to respond to in the Name text box. To see what commands are available, pull down the Apple menu and look through the

new Speakable Items folder.

### Alert!

The Mac not only listens, it talks, too. Your computer has over 20 different voices to choose from in the Speech control panel. To hear alerts rather than trying to catch that tiny flashing icon, pull down the Voices menu on the panel and select Talking Alerts. There's even a variety of warning phrases — would you rather sound the alarm with "Whoa" or "It's not my fault"? The Mac can also read the alert text to you. The Wait before speaking setting determines how long the pause is between the alert and the reading of its text.

Text-to-Speech, available in both English and Spanish, is the other half of your Mac's literary brain. This functionality enables the computer to read what's on its screen out loud, whether that's a web page or an AppleWorks document. If you don't already have Text-to-Speech installed, just follow the same steps as you did for Speakable Items, then use the Speech control panel to get talking. You'll also need to check Preferences in the Edit menu of applications you want to hear, like AOL's Instant Messenger, to see if there's an option for reading text out loud.

### Hard Choices

Software isn't the only solution. Companies like Don Johnston ([www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com); 800-999-4660) and Edmark ([www.edmark.com](http://www.edmark.com); 800-362-2890) make

peripherals that pave the way to accessibility. For example, Edmark's cross-platform USB TouchWindow is a monitor overlay that lets you manipulate menus, objects, and graphics on the desktop with the touch of a finger or stylus. It can also work as a touchpad if attached to a table or wheelchair tray. TouchWindow comes in 17" (\$365) and 15" (\$335) sizes. If you want a mouse or keyboard substitute, take a look at these two manufacturers.

### Engage

Developing projects may hold the keys to conquering certain disabilities. An experimental computer peripheral ([www.globaltechnoscan.com/21stMar-27thMar01/tongue.htm](http://www.globaltechnoscan.com/21stMar-27thMar01/tongue.htm)) sees with the tongue — an electrode transmits impulses through the

## Did You Know...

**That pictures can talk?** Glenn Paul, CEO of dotPhoto ([www.dotphoto.com](http://www.dotphoto.com)), created "talking photos," a free service that lets users save narration alongside their digital photos. Not only does this preserve the memory of the occasion, but it also gives the visually impaired a new way to enjoy online photo albums. dotPhoto recently helped Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic with press coverage of its annual awards events by providing talking photos of the event. The service is simple to use — just create a .wav file with the same name as the photo jpeg file, then upload both at the same time to dotPhoto.com. The sights and sounds are automatically associated.

tongue to the brain's visual cortex. It can already guide a blindfolded woman through a maze. That's a taste of the future of assistive technology, but there's no time like the present. The Mac has the most flexible interface out there. Apple is making sure that Mac OS X continues that tradition. No matter which OS you're running, it adapts to you. **MH**





# Making the Law

## Legal Software

One of the most persistent — and easily debunked — myths about the Macintosh is the allegation that there just isn't enough software out there to justify using a Mac as a business machine. "Macs may be good for pretty pictures and home movies," PC users grumble, "but when it is time to do some REAL work, only a PC will do."

This is a hollow argument. Not only does the

tag much more inviting than the average legal retainer.

Let's start with the general legal tools. Kiplinger's Home & Business Attorney (H&R Block, \$30) is a tool that lets you create legal documents from thousands of templates, offers advice on matters of law, and comes with a five-volume legal library. The software actually "interviews" you to determine the document you need or the course of action to take, and offers advice based on your answers. Pop-up legal definitions cut through the legalese, and the documents you create can even be customized for your state of residence.

Quicken Family Lawer 2001 (The Learning Company, \$30) is another tool for home and small business. It features a personalized interview session with plain-language questions to help you find the information you need. A special Audit feature keeps watch as you fill out forms and documents, checking for missing information and validating entered data. Topics covered by the software include wills and living trusts, power of attorney, real estate agreements, collection letters, and rental property forms.

By Michael Eilers

Mac platform have many accounting and tax programs, these tools are often identical to their PC counterparts. Almost any Mac can run software that lets you get down to business. But what about more complex matters that can't be solved by a spreadsheet? Everyone runs into questions about legal matters such as contracts, trusts, wills and estates. But we might also be unwilling to pay \$200 an hour when a well-drafted document would solve the problem. Could this be an area in which PC users have the edge?

No way! Not only is there a fair complement of legal tools for your Mac, they are also backed by big names such as Quicken and Kiplinger. From legal documents for your business to writing your own will or trust, software tools exist for all your legal needs. Of course none of them are a substitute for actual legal advice in a serious situation, but you will find the low price





Contracts are included as well, from employment contracts to prenuptial agreements. The Plain Language Law Dictionary, which defines thousands of 7,000 legal terms and procedures, is a bonus.

The software also includes access to LegalWise ([www.legalwise.com](http://www.legalwise.com)) and It'sLegal ([www.itslegal.com](http://www.itslegal.com)), services that update the software with the latest legal advice and methods.

The Learning Company also offers Quicken Business Lawyer 2001 (The Learning Company, \$30), a product focused on office needs with business agreements, real estate forms, and credit report requests.

Estate planning is one area of law that should not be neglected, yet many are afraid to approach the subject before it is too late. With a low price and helpful guides, estate software will allow you to draft estate plans before you consult a lawyer.

Estate Planner 2.0 (The Learning Company, \$15) offers comprehensive estate-planning information. Developed by the same team who created Quicken FamilyLawyer, it walks through each state's legal requirements, tax issues, life insurance policies, business issues, estate settlements, and estate value estimates. Try different options and compare the outcomes, learn how to minimize tax penalties, and avoid costly probate expenses. Generate an action plan which outlines your strategy, and search the web for legal updates.

Once you have the estate planned, transfer the information to Quicken WillWriter 2001 (\$30) to create all will-related documents. The software package includes WillWriter Companion, which helps you complete and understand complex estate documents.

Another alternative is Kiplinger's WILLPower (H&R Block, \$30), which offers a state-specific approach to creating wills, trusts, living wills, and "pour over" wills. With tools for estate planning, health care administration, powers of attorney, estate administration, and more, this runs the gamut of estate-



related legal needs. A Plan Wizard interviews you to calculate the value of your estate. After that, an Estate Manager walks you through estate planning. It also drafts state-specific wills and trusts. All the documents are dynamic, so they can be updated with new information at any time.

E-Z Estate Planner (E-Z Legal, \$50) is a 3-CD collection of documents and tools for preparing a last will and testament, living will, and living trust, with samples of each. Learn how to author powers of attorney for serious matters like healthcare administration and death-with-dignity requests to protect your rights in these situations. E-Z Legal also offers the more focused package Living Wills Made E-Z (\$30), which includes 37 critical forms for deciding end-of-life issues.

MyWill (Rep Shareware, \$7) is a bare-bones approach to drafting a will that may appeal to those with simple needs. This shareware program goes over the steps of creating a will and provides online help for each part of the process. This tool for the average person certainly has low cost in its favor, but legal advice is one area in which it does not pay to sell yourself short.

The legal software available for Mac users doesn't stop with mere document creation. For those of you that are lawyers, dozens of tools exist to make your practice easier to administer. One key tool for the modern attorney is

E-Transcript Mac Viewer (RealLegal Software, free) that lets you view the "e-transcripts" created in PTX format by court reporters. While the program that creates these E-Transcripts is PC-only, this viewer opens the door to the future of legal practice for the Mac user.

For those interested in learning more about the law itself, Gilbert's Dictionary of Legal Terms (Exceller Software, \$19) is a comprehensive electronic reference of legal terms and phrases. From Latin terms to legal shorthand, all the mysteries of legalese stand revealed. This is a great research tool as well as a helpful guide for deciphering contracts, insurance agreements, leases, and more. Never underestimate the power of an improved vocabulary.

All of these legal tools should help you explore your options before paying that retainer. No electronic tool is a substitute for a flesh-and-blood lawyer if the need actually arises. But now you'll know what they're talking about when words like "tort" and "trust" start flying around. Planning ahead on your own not only keeps expenses down, it also grants the peace of mind for you and your family that comes with knowing that your legal arrangements are in order no matter what the future holds. **MM**



**The Learning Company**  
[www.learningco.com](http://www.learningco.com)  
 800-395-0277

**H&R Block E-Solutions**  
[www.taxcut.com](http://www.taxcut.com)  
 818-779-7223

**Made E-Z Products**  
[www.e-zlegal.com](http://www.e-zlegal.com)  
 954-480-8933

**Exceller Software Corp**  
[www.exceller.com](http://www.exceller.com)  
 513-792-9555

**RealLegal**  
[www.reallegal.com](http://www.reallegal.com)  
 888-584-9988



## Disc Burner Inferno

**iTunes is a great tool for burning** your favorite music tracks, but if you want to back up your important documents with a CD-R drive, turn to Apple's Disc Burner. Released quietly alongside iTunes, Disc Burner allows users to back up files and folders simply by dragging and dropping them onto a blank disc. The utility's clever integration with Mac OS 9.1 gives it a distinct advantage over third party applications.

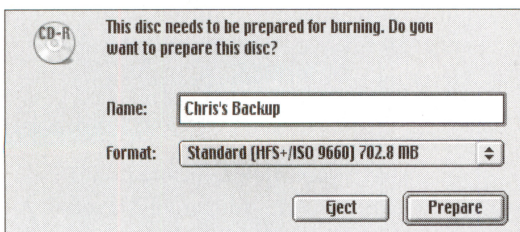
You'll need to download Disc Burner before you get started. The application can be found at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12018> (4.4MB), and if you have a third-party disc burner, you'll also want to install the

Authoring Support Update, found at

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12196/>.

Insert a blank disc into your CD-R drive, and the operating system immediately flags it. A window appears, asking you to name the disc. Once you've set-

tled on a name, click Prepare. The disc then appears on the desktop. You can drag files to and from it like any other hard drive, storing up to 700MB on a single disc. (The catch here is that you're not actually writing to the CD as you move around your files. Apple's Disc Burner software has created an active disk image instead, to minimize confusion for new users.) Once you're done dragging files and folders to the CD, you're ready to burn the disc. Click once on the disk to highlight it, and then select Burn CD-R from the Special menu. Follow the directions, and in a few moments, the disc begins to burn in the background. You can go about your business while it writes! (A word of caution: Disc Burner may conflict with Roxio's Toast. Visit [www.roxio.com](http://www.roxio.com) for the latest updates and information about compatibility or disable any Toast extensions before you install Disc Burner.



## Quickly Locate Recent Files

**Some tasks you tackle with** your Macintosh may require you to store multiple items with similar names in the same folder. It's a situation I frequently run into when creating graphics for web sites (for example: border.gif, border2.gif, border3.gif, etc.). If you view your folder as icons, there's no quick way to tell which graphic was created most recently. The solution is to view the folder as a list (select List from the Finder's View menu). This allows you to see the last modified date and the size of the document. Still, it's a chore to scan through the files and determine which document was created most recently. Thankfully, the Mac OS can help out. At the top of the folder window, you'll see Name, Date Modified, Size and Kind. These are actually buttons you can click to sort your files differently. Click on the Date Modified button to view the folder's contents by date. The most recently modified file will be listed at the top — and easy to find.

## Secure Your Documents

**Looking to protect** documents from prying eyes? Consider Apple File Security, an encryption application included with Mac OS 9. Assuming you haven't moved it, you should find the application in the Security folder within the Applications folder. To



encrypt your sensitive files, simply drag a document or folder onto the Apple File Security icon. You'll be presented with a dialog box asking you to specify a password for the encrypted file. It's very important that you remember the password, as the document cannot be unlocked without it. You can encrypt sensitive documents before sending them via email, too. Speak with your colleagues via online chat, telephone, or in person to predetermine a password for files you intend to exchange.

## Did You Know...

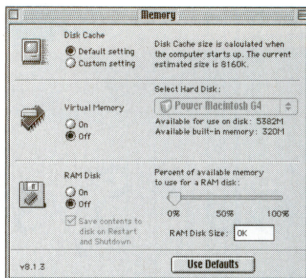
There are more than **18,000 products for your Macintosh?** Find them all at Apple's Macintosh Products Guide Website:

<http://guide.apple.com/usindex.html>



# DVD Audio Problems

**Do the audio** and video seem out of sync when you watch a DVD on your Macintosh? It's a fairly common problem with Apple's software-based DVD Player. To ensure that an actor's speech matches his lip movements, you should first install DVD Player 2.4 (<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12188>) and QuickTime 5 ([www.apple.com/quicktime](http://www.apple.com/quicktime)). If the problem persists you'll need to open the Memory control panel, turn Virtual Memory off, and restart your Macintosh. This will fix the audio mismatch in most cases.



## Easy Reading

**Internet Explorer 5 and Outlook Express 5** make it easy to adjust the size of text to help those of us with weary eyes. And larger fonts are a real joy if smooth.

To activate Font Smoothing, open the Appearance control panel, and click the Fonts tab. Check off "Smooth all fonts onscreen." It's also wise to select 14 from the pop-up menu since some smoothed fonts aren't legible at 12 point.

Launch IE5 and select Customize Toolbars from the View menu. Locate the Larger and Smaller buttons, and drag them to a convenient location on the toolbar. Once you're done, seek out some content you might like to read — say,

one of the special interest stories at [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com). Text too small and jaggy? No problem. Click your browser's new Larger button and watch that text grow.

In OE5, double-click a message. In the top right corner, you will see an icon of an A with a red arrow. Click it to enlarge the text. Find a size that's easy on the eyes, grab coffee, and get comfortable!

## Mac OS Update Watch

### Mac OS X 10.0.3

Apple's most recent update to Mac OS X provides additional application stability, more secure Internet file transfers, and (at long last) the ability to burn CDs from Mac OS X's iTunes. You can find the update with the Software Update system preference (15MB).

### iTunes 1.1.1 for Mac OS X

This minor update to iTunes for Mac OS X provides support for burning audio CDs, and must be used in conjunction with the Mac OS X 10.0.3 update noted above. You can find the software with the Software Update system preference (4MB).

### Apple DVD Player 2.4

This maintenance update to Apple's DVD software fixes a number of compatibility issues and includes a number of minor enhancements. The software requires Mac OS 9.1 and is intended for use with iMacs, iBooks, Power Macintosh G4s and PowerBook G4s. You can find the update at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12188> (3MB).

### Authoring Support Update 1.1

Grab more third-party burner drivers for iTunes and Disc Burner at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12196> (2.4MB). Requires Mac OS 9.1.

# MacHome Quiz

Whether you've forgotten more about the Mac than most people know or are new to the computer, it's fun to test your memory. Here are some questions that will leave you with a few more tricks up your sleeve. And if you have questions for us, stump us at [letters@machome.com](mailto:letters@machome.com)!

1. In Mac OS 9, how can you take a screenshot of just a window?
2. How can you empty a locked item from the Trash can?
3. What does CRT mean?
4. How much RAM should you have?
5. How many USB input devices can you use?
6. In Mac OS 9, how can you skip a Startup Item, but still load extensions?
7. Why would a Mac flash a blinking question mark and be slow to start up?
8. How can you manually eject a CD on a computer that is misbehaving?
9. How long can an iDVD creation last?

Answers on page 65

## Subscription Questions?

Do you have questions or problems with your subscription? Please call us at 800.800.6542 or email us at [subscriptions@machome.com](mailto:subscriptions@machome.com)



# Customize Your System

With a custom desktop picture, system alert sound, and organization of files, your Mac will be an extension of your personality. With this triple-feature workshop, tweak the system settings to your liking.

## Initiate a Desktop Picture

A fundamental part of making a Mac your own is to change the background of the finder — the desktop. Creating and using a desktop image is one of the easiest things to do on the Macintosh.

By Corey Tamás

### Mac OS 9.1

#### Step 1 Locate Your Picture

First thing, of course, is to find an image you like. There are a variety of digital cameras that can be plugged into your Mac, and all of them will allow you to

take pictures and save the image to your hard drive. This allows you to create a desktop from whatever your imagination might inspire you to photograph. You can also snatch images you like from the web. Just Control-click on an image in your favorite browser, and download and save the image to your hard drive.

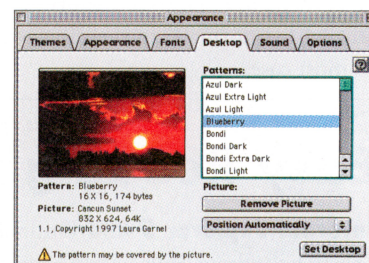
#### Step 2 Repaint the Desktop

Once you have an image you like, you can now use it. The simplest way is to Control-click on the current desktop while in the finder, and select Change Desktop Background, which will open the Appearance control panel. You will then see your current desktop and a button that offers to Place Picture (if you already have a desktop photo active you will need to first click Remove Picture). You'll be given a dialogue box that allows you to locate the chosen image.

#### Step 3 Tune the Image

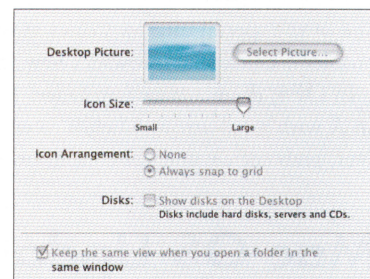
Adjust it to your liking. Through the drop-down menu beneath Remove Picture, position the image. Choose Fill Screen to stretch the image until it completely covers all the available desktop space. Scale To Screen enlarges the photo to cover more space without changing the height and width ratio. Center On Screen places it dead-center. And Tile On Screen repeats the picture over and over until the desktop is covered. You can also choose Position Automatically, to have your Mac select the layout.

When you're ready, click Set Desktop, and voila! Your beloved new desktop image has become active.



### Mac OS X

If you're using OS X the process is equally quick, but a little different. While in the Finder, select Finder Preferences from under the Finder menu. You'll see your current desktop image, as well as a button that says Select Picture. Clicking the button will allow you to select an image, but unlike in 9.1, you will not be provided with a number of options for positioning. If the image does not perfectly match the size of your monitor, OS X will tile the image over the desktop in order to cover it.



## Create a System Alert Sound

If you find the stock alert sounds that came with your Mac to be lacking in personality, take control of its auditory signature, and choose your own sound for the system alert.

### Mac OS 9.1

#### Step 1 Set Up the Audio

First make sure that your microphone is plugged in. If your Mac has a mic jack, it will always have a microphone icon next

## What You'll Need

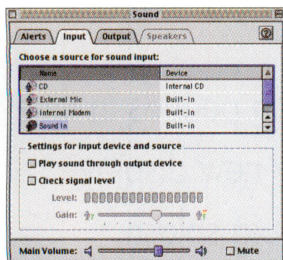
1. Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X Images
2. QuickTime Pro ([www.apple.com/quicktime/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/)) or other sound editor (optional)



to it. New Macs don't have mic jacks, however, and you will either need to use the mic that's built into the computer itself or acquire a USB mic or adapter.

## Step 2 Record It

Open the Sound control panel, and click the Input tab to choose a way to send sound to your Macintosh. Click Sound In or External Mic, which allows your Mac to "hear" the

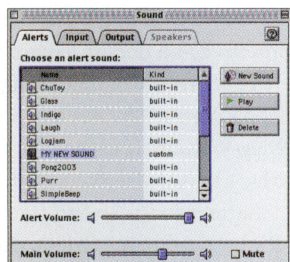


microphone. Go back to the Alerts tab, and click New Sound, which tells the Mac you'd like to record something via the microphone. The controls on the recorder work as any standard cassette deck would (with record, play, or stop), and after recording, the new sound will appear in the

Alert list along with the others.

## Step 3 Choose It and Use It

Now you'll be able to choose your new sound and use it as your system alert in the Alerts tab, or just open the Sound control panel to click it whenever you're in the mood to hear it. If, for whatever reason, you want to use your new sound for something other than the OS 9.1 system alert (perhaps for the OS X alert sound; see below) you can open your system file (located within the OS 9.1 system folder) and drag it out. It will then appear wherever you've dragged it to.



## Mac OS X Step 1 Get Your Sound

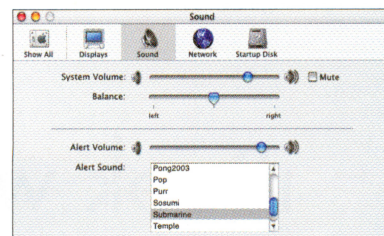
OS X makes things a little trickier, but using custom sounds is still possible.

First, you'll need to create your sound in OS 9.1 using the instructions given above (OS X won't let you do this job easily enough yet), and it will have to be in 16-bit AIFF format. QuickTime Pro will convert files from one format to another, as will many other commercial software products such as SoundEdit or SoundApp (both of which work under OS 9.1, but performance in Classic mode under OS X may be poor.) Also note that you will need to drag the sound out of the system folder (as described above) before you can edit it with any of these programs.

## Step 2 Get Your Sound into X

Once you have your AIFF file, use the Startup Disk system preference to restart in OS 9.1. After launch, copy your sound into the Sounds folder, which is found in the Library folder inside the OS X System folder. This, in turn, is right

inside the OS X disk. Using the Startup Disk control panel in OS 9.1 this time, restart into OS X and the new sound will be available in the Sound system preference. You can now use that sound as an alert with the Sound system preference. There is a paucity of tools and shareware that allow OS X to handle sound in the way that OS 9.1 does, but don't despair; software will certainly become more available as OS X matures and, for now, OS 9.1 can help you get your sound working just fine in OS X.

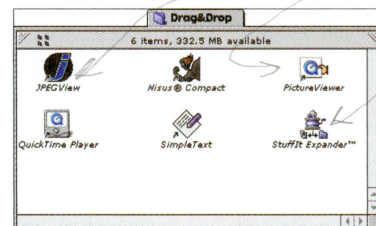


## A Drag-and-Drop Area

A favorite aspect of the Mac OS is the freedom to drag a file onto an application's icon and have that file open within the selected application. This functionality allows you to create an area into which items can be dragged-and-dropped, which makes quick, effective handling of documents a snap. Both OS 9.1 and OS X make this easy.

## Mac OS 9.1 Step 1 Prepare Your Folder

In OS 9.1, start by creating a new folder somewhere on the hard drive, and give it a name you like ("Drag and drop" will do fine if you're short on inspiration). Then, one by one, create aliases of your most commonly used applications, and stash them in the new folder. To create these aliases, Control-click the apps, select Make Alias, and then move the alias into the new, empty folder. A special trick is to simply grab the application icon itself, and while holding down command and option, drag it into the folder, thereby creating a little alias. Some good apps to choose for frequently dragging and dropping are StuffIt Expander, your favorite image viewer, QuickTime player, and a favorite text editor.



## Step 2 Make the Folder a Pop-up

Open the new folder, and make it into a pop-up window using one of two methods: Either Control-click the window itself, and select View: As Pop-up Window, or simply drag the window by its title bar to the bottom of the screen until it becomes a pop-up. Drag your files to the pop-up tab to open the window and launch the aliases.

## Mac OS X

OS X makes this whole process a lot easier. Simply drag the application you want to have available for dragging and dropping into the Dock, rather than creating a new folder and moving aliases about. It's that simple. **MH**



# iBook with Combo Drive

*It's Minty Fresh and Burns CDs*

**The new iBook is one refined portable.** Shedding pounds in time for swimsuit season, the iBook has been reinvented with a sassy new display, CD-burning capabilities, and the inputs and outputs to make a big splash.

The iBook is different in two main ways from last year's model and the PowerBook G4: its display and shape. Although the new iBook has a 12.1-inch display like its predecessor, it has much more workspace with 1,024 x 768 pixels instead of 800 x 600 pixels. The difference means that things on the screen will be drawn smaller on this iBook, although the tradeoff will be more items displayed. But also because of the tighter resolution, the iBook can present finer shading so text stays readable even if smaller.

The iBook also weighs in less and has a tighter shape than other 'Books. Its silver and white accents and rounded corners resemble a five-pound Chiclet. It's thicker than the Power-

Book G4, but the iBook has the same footprint as a piece of paper.

Apple claims that the new case is just as solid as the neon iBook's, and that seems to be true. Hard plastics sandwich metal layers to keep the iBook rigid. Its display, while thin, gives little room to bend.

Inputs and outputs are loaded on the iBook. One FireWire and two USB ports, Ethernet, a modem, and AirPort connectivity are included. The video options are improved; in addition to the previous iBook's A/V

port for headphones or a connection to a TV, an SVGA now connects an external monitor to mirror the screen.

Powered by a 500MHz G3, the iBook is a quick machine. 128MB RAM drives the top three options, which is enough to get started. Computing requests are answered quickly, with the iBook keeping pace in Mac OS

9. Application launches are more sluggish in

Mac OS X; future revisions to the operating system may boost its speed. But as is, Mac OS X is usable.

Video performance glides along with ATI's Rage 128

Mobility chip. This computer won't replace any gamer's desktop G4, but even 3D games deliver solid frame rates.

This iBook has a CD-RW/DVD-ROM drive for making CDs and watching DVDs. Burning is an intuitive part of the interface and doesn't require special software.

The software bundle includes a few useful applications. AppleWorks 6 creates text documents, a few games like Cro-Mag Rally are ready for breaks, iMovie produces videos, and Mac OS X delivers a crash-free work environment.

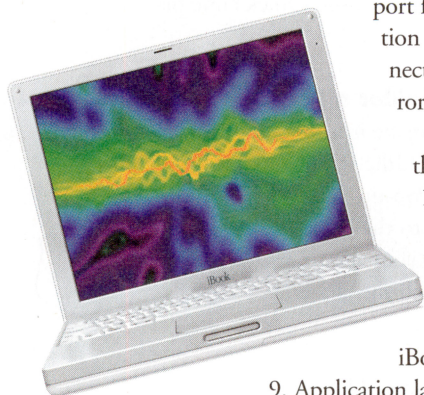
Battery life is strong but depends on the OS. Mac OS X's battery management needs improvement; expect about three hours. With Mac OS 9, the power will hold out to nearly four hours, although the battery life varies with how many tasks are running, the display brightness, and other factors.

There are two problems with the iBook. The pixels in the lower-right corner drift from their assigned color. The issue looks similar to an LCD under pressure — like liquid motion — but it's subtle, and has no significant impact.

At 10GB, there's only space to create a couple of 15-minute iMovies. Even for a consumer or student, 10GB is too small.

## The Final Decision

The iBook is a hot machine. Its powerful display, small footprint, and optional CD-burning capability give it the strength to fit into any consumer's life. Even with its pixel quirks and limited hard drive, this is one polished apple. **MH**



**By Zack Stern**

## rating



\$1,799

Apple Computer, Inc.  
[www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)  
800-629-7753

👍 1,024 x 768 pixel screen, full ins and outs, small footprint

👎 10GB drive is limited, slight pixel quirk

## iBook Specs

All iBooks have a 500MHz G3, 10GB disk, and other similar ratings. They differ in the media bay. You can get one with a CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, CD-RW, or DVD-ROM/CD-RW Combo drive. The prices are \$1,299, \$1,499, \$1,599, and \$1,799 respectively. Visit [www.apple.com/store](http://www.apple.com/store) for the CD-RW configuration.



## DVD Studio Pro

**When you watch a DVD,** you may take for granted how much work goes into creating the actual disc beyond the video. Special buttons, menus, and extra content need to be created for the DVD disc. With iDVD, home users have these interface elements provided in templates. But DVD Studio Pro moves beyond the simple and takes professionals deep into the creation of fully customizable discs. In fact, the only bad part about DVD Studio Pro is that there is so much you can do in creating a perfect DVD that its learning curve will slow even video experts. If you can learn everything that this package has to offer, you'll be able to create perfect DVD files to burn with a SuperDrive or send off to be mastered.

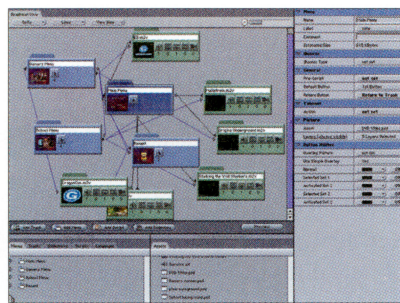
DVD Studio Pro seems overwhelming, but less so once you consider all of the options on a movie DVD. Audio options alone — like in how many languages subtitles will be created, how many

audio tracks will be supported, and what quality audio will be used — are all things to consider with DVD Studio Pro.

Unfortunately, the manual doesn't back up the software as much as it could; with so many variables to address, the 170 pages of documentation is light.

Specific manuals with media creation tips would also make this a stronger package. While you'll encode MPEG-2 files in another application (like QuickTime Pro), extra guidance on data rates would have helped some projects.

DVD Studio Pro is object and menu driven, and once understood, its interface is powerful. After preparing video, audio, and still files (to build buttons and backgrounds), DVD Studio Pro can import them for use in your disc. Each file has properties and settings associated with it, and is in turn associated with



other files. This hierarchical approach is quite elegant if you're clean about it, with menu pages holding video files that hold audio files and more.

**The Final Decision** If you need to create professional DVDs with multiple audio tracks, subtitles, and other features you'd expect from Paramount, DVD Studio Pro will do it. After figuring out what's what, this is the DVD authoring application you need.

— Zack Stern

**rating** ★★★★★

\$999

Apple Computer, Inc.  
www.apple.com  
800-692-7753



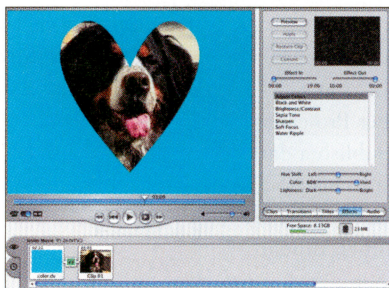
Powerful options to do anything DVD



Documentation misses some support

## Slick Transitions & Effects

**If you're looking for a** way to spice up your iMovie projects to make them more watchable, you might want to make them slicker with Slick Transitions & Effects. This software will increase the visual effects capabilities of iMovie, even rivaling effects and transitions found in high-end editing packages. Once the Slick effects are placed in your iMovie plug-ins folder, you will have an additional 50 video transitions and effects to select including page peels, spin and tumbles, and even rolling fog transitions. While some of the effects are a little on the wild side, there is enough variety to



allow you to find the perfect look for an iMovie masterpiece.

These new transitions are used just like the transitions that come with iMovie. You simply find the effect you want to use, drag and drop it between the two movie clips, and voila, you're an effects wizard. If you're the type of editor that likes to tweak settings, you can fine-tune controls to adjust characteristics of the additional 16 Photoshop-type effects included in this package. You can apply these effects to portions of your footage or the entire project. While Photoshop-type effects

such as emboss, posterize, mosaic, and film noise are gimmicky if over-used or inserted at the wrong moment, they can be extremely effective when creating graphic backgrounds for titles.

If you visit the GeeThree website you

sample moving examples of practically all of these effects and transitions. If you decide to purchase the package, you can even download an additional 12 bonus effects.

**The Final Decision** Due to their smooth style and variety, the addition of Slick transitions and effects into the iMovie effects palate is essential for the budding director/producer. Prudent use of these tasteful, yet exciting, effects and transitions can add just enough polish to your next iMovie project to elevate it into the slick category.

—Eric Ross

**rating** ★★★★★

\$30

Geethree  
www.geethree.com  
650-328-2359



Adds iMovie functionality, easy, affordable



None



## Pick-a-Video

If you have ever tried to go out and shoot “beauty shots” of nature or a nighttime cityscape for use in a video, then you might be aware of how difficult such shots are to obtain due to the ever present obstacles of bad weather, poor lighting, and misplaced shadows. Pick-a-Video from Ulead is an affordable set of video clips assembled in separate CD-ROMs that can be used without copyright restrictions in commercial projects. You’ll find plenty of opportunity to include these elegant clips in your next video.

What makes this collection so unique and easy to use is that all of the 16 individual clips found on each CD-ROM can be viewed through a play-preview interface that saves you the trouble of launching each clip. The interface lets you see thumbnail stills of all available clips while you preview a

selection; it also displays details like file size, data rate, duration, codec, and duration. Each clip has a broadcast quality version in either DV Type-1, AVI for PC, or Photo-JPEG MOV for Macintosh, both in NTSC or PAL standards. Each clip also comes with a compressed QuickTime version for Web pages and projects requiring smaller file sizes.

The quality of the video clips is extremely high, both in artistic composition and smooth camera movement. The catalog of disc choices includes 15 unique titles such as City Life, Snow Scenes, Spring Scenes, and Aerial Shots. Because each title includes multiple clips, Pick-a-Video is quite a deal considering most royalty-free videos usually sell for between \$100 and \$200 per clip.



### The Final Decision

Adding high-quality scenic footage to your video projects for title back-grounds or “B-roll” is the kind of touch used by professionals to make projects

come alive. The time and frustration you’ll save yourself by not having to go out and shoot video of this quality makes purchasing royalty-free footage a wise option.

—Eric Ross

### rating



\$60

Ulead Systems, Inc  
www.ulead.com  
800-85-ULEAD



High quality, time-saving interface, multiple selection



None

## FileMaker Pro 5.5

FileMaker Pro 5.5 is the latest version of the venerable database application that allows users to keep records of their recipes, action figure collections, and small business inventory. Version 5.5 includes new templates, better database sharing over the Internet, and full support for Mac OS X. FileMaker Pro is not for the timid, however. It is a robust application designed for professionals that requires a lot of time and energy to master.

A host of database templates are employed to overcome the application’s inherent complexity. Select New Database from the File menu, and you are presented with list of available templates,

including Recipes, Collections, and Inventory. This allows you to start inputting items quickly. Unfortunately, the templates are rather bland. Once you’ve become more comfortable with the application, you may want to alter the database layout and add your own

graphic elements. Modifying the layout requires patience, however. It takes time and practice to get used to FileMaker Pro’s graphic tools.

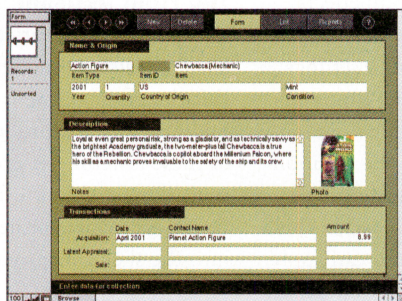
FileMaker Pro can instantly publish a database to the Internet. The word “instantly” is a bit of a misnomer, though.

Instead of using a simple menu command (such as “Publish”), you must first enable FileMaker Pro’s Web Companion and then configure Web Sharing preferences for each database. It’s also important to note that the database cannot be uploaded to a different server like a standard HTML document. The database

must be hosted from a computer with FileMaker Pro. Although it’s somewhat complicated to activate, the results are worthwhile. The database can be fully accessed and even modified from within a browser window.

**The Final Decision** FileMaker Pro 5.5 is a capable database application aimed at professionals. Its robust feature set and steep learning curve may be too much for casual users, however, who may be better served by a simpler program.

—Chris McVeigh



### rating



\$249

FileMaker, Inc.  
www.filemaker.com  
800-325-2747



Enhanced Internet publishing; Mac OS X compatibility



Steep learning curve



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# Subscribe

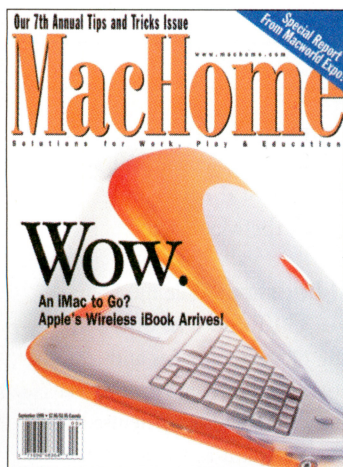
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you on the way to being a more savvy Internet user. We offer the best advice on email, Web browsing, ecommerce and troubleshooting.

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## FreeHand 10

**FreeHand 10 marks** the next evolution of Macromedia's flagship illustration application for professional graphic designers. The update rolls in features such as contour gradients and selective printing, and provides full support for Mac OS X, once again leap-frogging the competition.

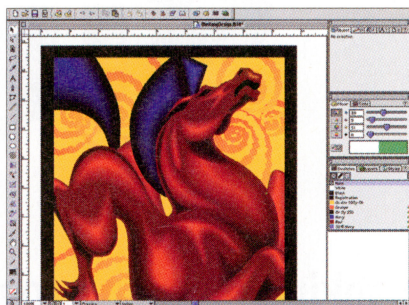
One of FreeHand 10's most ingenious new features is contour gradients. This allows designers to quickly apply a smooth, accurate gradient within an irregular shape — a task that was sometimes a nightmare in previous versions of the application. The center point of the gradient can be moved, too, helping create the illusion of shadows and highlights.

Another clever new feature is the Print Area command, which allows you to select any area of your document to print. The command, combined with the Fit On Paper print option, stretches a selection to

fit a single sheet of paper. This is a great tool for designers looking to closely examine a small part of a complex graphic.

Macromedia has also made great efforts to ensure that the user experience is similar across its suite of applications. Menus, keyboard shortcuts and tool palettes are identical where at all possible. The updated standard pen tool, for example, behaves the same in FreeHand, Flash, and Fireworks.

FreeHand 10 is marred by a few minor quirks, however. The application feels sluggish in Mac OS 9 and even more so in Mac OS X. Another detraction is the inability to apply transparency to grouped objects with fills or gradients. This forces the designer to think ahead when considering transparency, instead



of making the option available as an after-thought.

### The Final Decision

FreeHand 10 is an excellent update to an established graphics application. Although somewhat hampered

by sluggishness, smart new features like contour gradients make this illustration package a winner.

—Chris McVeigh

### rating ★★★★★

\$399

Macromedia Inc.  
www.macromedia.com  
415-252-2000

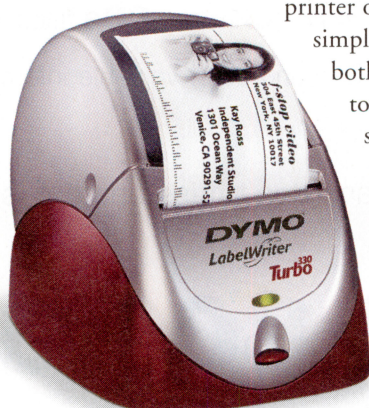
👍 Contour gradients, clever Print Area command, Mac OS X support

👎 Sluggish at times; no transparency for group objects

## Dymo LabelWriter 330 Turbo

**Typically, I waste** labels on things around the house to drive my roommate nuts: Alex's Milk, Alex's Toilet Paper, Alex's Pear. While this is a fun way to pass the time, it can cause undue stress amongst life partners, and also result in a lot of label stick-um stuck to one's teeth. Fortunately for myself and my teeth, the Dymo LabelWriter 330 Turbo spits out labels at a blistering pace, thus allowing me to label things around the house in seconds flat.

Much to my roommate's glee, when I was given the Dymo LabelWriter 330



Turbo, I actually had a legitimate use in mind: printing addresses for sending out my Ebay items. When I first used this printer, I had ten separate items to ship, and I must say, my task was made a great deal easier with this blazingly fast 300 DPI printer. Using this

printer on a Macintosh is a fairly simple task: it even comes with both USB and serial connectors for those like myself still stuck in the pre- iMac fog of yesteryears. Installation was fairly simple, and the drivers and software have yet to cause trouble for my system.

But there are two problems with this printer, however: First, it uses a proprietary label format, and thus one must purchase refills from Dymo (\$20 bucks for 700 labels). Also, there is no way to share the printer over an AppleTalk network (even through USB) without buy-

ing extra software. This is quite troublesome since the LabelWriter 330 Turbo is networkable out of the box under Windows. Where's the Mac parity?

**The Final Decision** While the Dymo LabelWriter 330 Turbo does offer some fast printing of snazzy images and text, its lack of networking software for the Mac makes it only suitable for home use. But will a home user want to spend nearly \$300 dollars on such a limited-use printer? Probably not. Now, if you'll excuse me; there are fruits and vegetables which require my immediate labeling attention.

—Alex Handy

### rating ★★★★★

\$290, \$20 for 700 labels  
Dymo  
www.dymo.com  
800-426-7827

👍 Gorgeous labels, simple software

👎 No network support for the Mac, no OS X support



## SyncMaster 570V

**LCD prices are falling**, and a 15-inch flat-panel can be had for about \$500 now. With the SyncMaster 570V, you'll get a bright, thin, light display. If you don't make a living based on accurate color matching, this LCD is a great option.

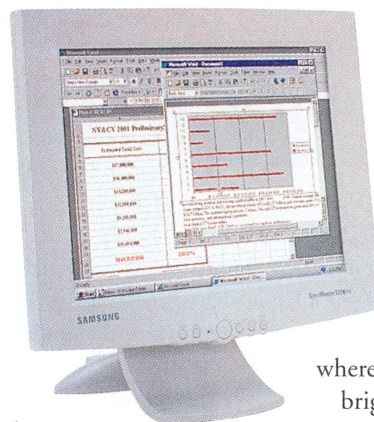
With a viewable area of 15-inches, this display is only slightly smaller than so called 17-inch CRTs (though they only have about 16-inches of viewable area), so while you'll be paying more than for a traditional monitor, the visible space will be comparable. A native resolution of 1,024 x 768 pixels gives enough room to work on multiple documents.

What's missing from this LCD, in comparison to traditional monitors, is size and weight. You'll be able to stick this into a small space, and moving it is less likely to result in a trip to the chiropractor. And if replacing a traditional

monitor with this LCD, you'll reclaim significant desk space, as the SyncMaster 570V will fit further back.

With this LCD, colors and images are bright. Text is clean and stands up to the background. Looking at it from different angles, above or to the side, colors do get distorted somewhat. The tradeoff is that with an LCD, your eyes are less likely to get tired viewing it for long periods. If precise color-matching is important to your job, go with a traditional monitor. If not, images look good enough for color tones to not to be a factor for most users.

**The Final Decision** There is little to dislike about this display. Its size and weight let it slip onto tight desks and



corners. Working with this LCD for long periods will be easier on your eyes, and it uses less power than traditional monitors. Professionals looking for exact color need to look else-

where, but users who want a bright LCD with a large viewing angle will get the most from the SyncMaster 570V.

— Zack Stern

### rating

\$549

Samsung

[www.samsung.com](http://www.samsung.com)

201-229-4000



Bright, clear display

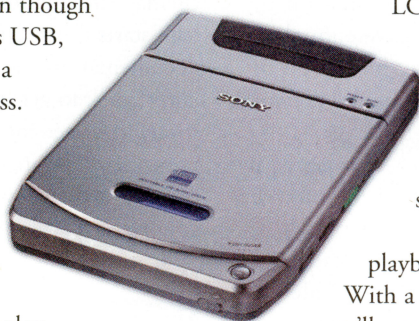


Colors vary from different angles

## Digital Relay

**Sony's Digital Relay** is a CD player, burner, and MP3 player. The concept is great; burn audio (or data) CDs and MP3 CDs, then play them while away from the computer. It does this at reasonable speeds even though the Digital Relay uses USB, making disc-burning a straightforward process. But the major flaw with the Digital Relay is that it relies on a limited battery for road use. Expect to only get a couple hours of play when away from an outlet.

The Digital Relay also has a life as a regular CD burner. With write and rewrite speeds of 4x (and a read speed of 6x), it takes about fifteen minutes to burn a full disc. While not breaking any records, this speed will be enough for



most users. The included battery will last a few hours on the road, but if it goes out while burning, you'll have wasted a disc.

The Digital Relay's other use is playback discs. It handles audio CDs, but it is especially useful with a burned CD of MP3s. The included remote has an

LCD interface that lists information about the current track; if available, it'll display the disc title, musician, and song name.

However, the MP3 playback control is limited.

With a few hundred songs, you'll want to organize playlists.

Unfortunately, you're stuck playing songs in order or randomly.

The biggest problem with the Digital Relay is that its battery will only hold out for a few hours. Although it is a removable camcorder battery — perhaps you have more around the house — you

may find yourself trying to play songs or burn when out of juice. For a device that should be a complete portable audio solution, two and a half hours is too short a time limit.

**The Final Decision** If the burn rates and MP3 navigation don't bother you, the limited battery life may. The Sony Digital Relay has grand hopes to solve all of your CD- and audio-related needs, but it literally runs out of power before then. This is a product that does several different things reasonably well, but none sets the Digital Relay apart from other devices.

— Zack Stern

### rating

\$400

Sony

[www.sony.com/digitalrelay](http://www.sony.com/digitalrelay)

800-571-7669



Plays MP3s, portable drive



Short battery life, burn rate is limited



## SpinImage DV Object Imaging Kit

**The SpinImage DV** Kit is satisfying because it is a product that does exactly what it should. Its purpose is narrow, but should you need to make QuickTime VR object movies, this is the tool for the job. Combining everything you need for software and hardware, creating these files is just a matter of a minute's preparation. Multiple file formats and settings even give room to tweak the straightforward process.

The Kit is a two-piece solution. The turntable plugs into an outlet and provides a point to place objects that weigh up to 20 pounds. It rotates in sync with the other half of the Kit, the SpinImage DV software. You do have to supply your own camera, but most any FireWire option will work — even webcams. Additionally, some still cameras that capture movies are

also supported.

SpinImage DV is a breeze, too. The buttons are clear and describe just what is happening. The only problem was when installing it, a serial number wouldn't work after hitting Return. After discovering that the box had to be clicked, SpinImage was ready.

The process couldn't be easier. Place an object on the turntable, frame it, and start the capture. The software is synced to the turntable and records one full rotation. Crop the recording, and then export.

But even though SpinImage DV is quickly learned, it offers several ways to modify captures. Export in QTVR or Autolycus's ASFDASE. SpinImage even prepares files for the web — you can export an HTML page and the files that belong to it. Finally, several setting options compress the file; the resulting



image movie is generally between 100k and a few MB.

### The Final Decision

Because the process is quick — each movie only takes a minute to create, the SpinImage DV Kit is great for people who have a lot of object movies to create (eBay, anyone?) You'll still be able to adjust the export settings, and the results will give a unique view of your objects.

— Zack Stern

**rating** ★★★★★

\$400

Koidan Inc. and Autolycus Corp.

www.spinimagedv.com

215-364-1778

Works as expected, multiple formats, direct process

None

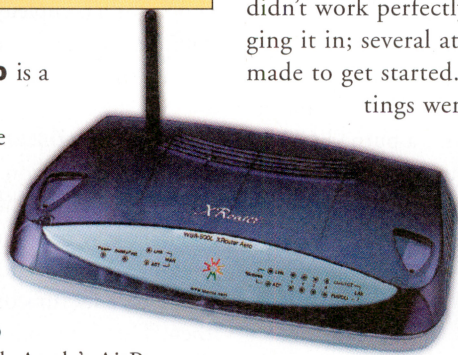
## XRouter Aero

**The XRouter Aero** is a

wireless and wired router that can share your printer, local network, and ISP among several computers. It works with the 802.11b protocol so

it also integrates with Apple's AirPort equipment. The XRouter has no modem and is instead used with high-speed Internet connections and local Ethernet networks. With support for these connections, reasonably straightforward setup, and room for user configurability, the XRouter Aero is a good choice to create a wired and wireless network.

The difficulty with some wireless and wired routers is that they're difficult to set up. With so many options and variables, the documentation and



interface in setting up the router can be a top selling point. The XRouter didn't work perfectly after first plugging it in; several attempts had to be made to get started. Even though settings weren't automatically

configured, the menus and documentation gave enough information to put the network together.

Versatile in many situations, the XRouter's strongest asset is that it combines a wired and wireless network. Connect an Ethernet cable to a high-speed Internet connection or existing network and you can plug four computers into the router with Ethernet; about ten can share the wireless space. The XRouter also gets points for supporting PPPoE, a special protocol you may use with a DSL connection.

**The Final Decision** The XRouter Aero is a good way to share a high-speed Internet connection with wired and wireless computers. Stick an AirPort card into a PowerBook, and get online with this router. And without another box or software, share a wired desktop machine or entire wired network with wireless clients. Although the XRouter had a few false starts in its setup, the thorough documentation and interface made it fairly quick to get started. Support for special Internet connections and solid implementation make this a router that belongs anywhere wireless and wired computers share a network.

— Zack Stern

**rating** ★★★★★

\$300

Macsense

www.xsense.com

408-844-0320

Wired and wireless, supports PPPoE

Initial difficulty in setup



## Hewlett-Packard PSC 750

**Typically, combination printer**-scanner-copiers are an absolute bear to deal with, and can send editors screaming with fear off into the night. Fortunately, the HP PSC 750 turned out to be a relatively well-trained bear, but a bear nonetheless.

The main reason multi-function printers tend to be annoying is their inability to play well with other peripherals. And when you consider that these devices generally perform the tasks that would normally be relegated to three separate machines, the chances of having a conflict are easily tripled. At first, our PSC 750 wasn't keen on playing with our iMac DV SE at all. But after a few false starts, we got it up and running with only a few reinstalls. Despite our modest troubles, however, we were able at all times to copy in color and black-and-white, something that a surprising number of other multi-function machines are completely incapable of. The PSC 750



has one feature that leaves a great deal of its competition in the dust: an easy to use button panel on top. This panel allows you to perform mundane tasks like print head adjustments and bulk copying without mucking about in software.

While the PSC 750 doesn't perform any of its three functions perfectly, it does perform them with reasonable aplomb. The only true sticking point is its printing mechanism, which can occasionally produce some ugly banding lines in high color images. Still, when given a simple task, such as printing a jpeg or text, it can produce some excellent hard copy. Scanning, on the other hand, is no trouble at all for this work horse: the PSC 750 is a very accomplished scanner, easily pulling in beautiful images at fairly good speeds.

So, with these minor drawbacks in its printing mechanism, the PSC 750 is not going to replace your current full-time printer. It will, however, take over for that lowend scanner, and be a welcome addition to the office thanks to its straightforward copying capabilities.

**The Final Decision** If you've got a need for low quality printing, copying, and scanning, and you're willing to sacrifice a

bit of your time to deal with a prima donna peripheral, the PSC 750 will definitely suit any home office that's on a budget.

— Alex Handy

**rating** ★★★★★

\$300  
Hewlett-Packard  
www.hp.com  
888-999-4747



Combines three office functions



Doesn't perform any function perfectly

## MacHome.com

This month on MacHome.com look for our new feature called *5 Questions With*. This new feature will spotlight the individuals who are helping to shape the future of Macintosh computing.

Our product reviews section has over 1,400 reviews. Before you pull out your wallet, be sure the products you want have gotten the seal of approval from MacHome. As a bonus, you may learn some valuable configuration and set up tips!

Daily Tip just added! We've added a Daily Tip box on our home page. Visit MacHome.com each day for a helpful tip designed to improve your computing experience.

## Classroom

Our free e-mail newsletter Classroom goes out each week with fun, interesting, and challenging educational activities and resources. In May, our Classroom newsletter subscribers learned:

- About dyslexia and the wealth of resources on the web devoted to dyslexia
- Detailed descriptions of child-oriented dinosaur websites
- A review of the new iBook, from the perspective of a teacher
- How to put together a lesson plan that includes mathematical symbols

Don't miss out on this valuable source of educational information! Subscribe to Classroom today:

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Recent tips and tricks available only to subscribers of HotTips, our free, weekly e-mail newsletter included:

Keyboard shortcuts  
Creating screenshot images  
Tips for upgrading your Mac  
File sharing tips

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Coming Up In and Around MacHome





### DiskOnKey

★★★★★

M-Systems

\$50-\$100

[www.diskonkey.com](http://www.diskonkey.com)

DiskOnKey balances the gap between fun and useful. It's fun to toss the whole concept of disks and instead use a little plastic USB plug. But because this device delivers 8MB, 16MB, or 32MB storage, you'll have an easy way to transfer files between any computer.

DiskOnKey is a USB plug with a twist. There's no dangling cable — instead, a small chip of RAM is contained in the plastic shell. As the name

implies, it is just the right size to go on a key chain.

The beauty of DiskOnKey is its simplicity. Just plug it into any modern operating system (even PCs), and without having to load any software, the disk mounts like an external drive. Its speed is good enough — the flash RAM guts could tear through data faster if not limited by the USB speeds. Regardless, copying several megabytes only takes a few moments.

And while the concept is still new, consider that DiskOnKey could store your AOL or email application for use on any computer. It's fast enough to run files or applications.

DiskOnKey is a solid performer. To transfer middle-sized files or run small applications, DiskOnKey is an elegant, versatile solution.

— Zack Stern



### Mouse-in-a-Box Optical Pro

★★★★★

Kensington

\$40

[www.kensington.com](http://www.kensington.com)

800-235-6708

Kensington's Mouse-in-a-Box Optical Pro gives enough buttons and function for mousing needs. Five buttons and a scroll-wheel let you configure this mouse for almost anything. And because it's optical, you'll never have to take it apart or clean it. Even the tail light, which looks fun but has no function, will please many users. However, all of these features can't offset the

most important thing in a mouse: how it feels. This mouse glides well along a table or pad, but if your mouse style has you pick it up, look elsewhere. The button layout makes it difficult to lift without clicking.

While you could use the mouse without any software, and each button would click, MouseWorks software configures the buttons to different tasks. Set up each to drag, scroll, double-click, and more. Even set the mouse up to toggle between open applications.

The effective software can't compensate for the design of the mouse. If you seldom pick up a mouse while using it, you may like this shape. However, many users will have difficulty maneuvering this mouse in tight spaces.

— Zack Stern

### Neon Ink Cartridges

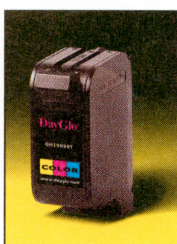
★★★

DayGlo

\$20-\$40, depending on printer

[www.dayglo.com](http://www.dayglo.com)

DayGlo ink cartridges are supposed to jazz up your printouts



with bright neon colors reminiscent of those found in highlighter pens. Pinks, greens and yellows

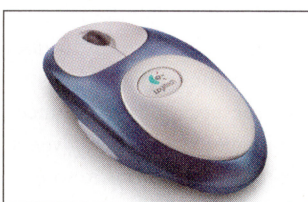
should bounce off the page and attract attention. Simply replace your regular color ink cartridge with the patented DayGlo cartridge and you're ready to go! No extra software is required. But, alas, it's not quite as good as it sounds. Our testers could find almost no difference

between a DayGlo printout and a normal one.

I say almost because there is one distinct difference between DayGlo ink and normal ink: the yellow. It is definitely a much more vibrant and highlighter-like yellow than is found in most normal color ink cartridges. But is that brighter yellow worth the extra \$10 a cartridge? The other colors closely resemble the original ink.

Well, it might be worth it only if you're going to be printing some yellow-intensive images. If not, you're better off simply using a standard color ink cartridge for about the same price from your printer manufacturer. Aside from neon yellow, there's not a color in the rainbow (or even in any neon signs) that you won't be able to print already.

— Alex Handy



### Cordless MouseMan Optical

★★★★★

Logitech

\$70

[www.logitech.com](http://www.logitech.com)

800-231-7717

First came optical. Then came cordless. Now there's cordless and optical, all in one sleek mouse from Logitech. Batteries included! While I scoffed at the idea of a cordless mouse at first — nearsighted, I can't move far from the Mac and still be able to read the screen — it's nice to move freely around the piles of press releases burying my desk.

Cordless MouseMan Optical connected on the first try without a glitch. Even without Logitech's software, the mouse was up and running across the desktop. However, you must install the software to use the scroll wheel. And you'll want to use the scroll wheel, because it's the only way of quickly solving the one problem this mouse has — the cursor freezes erratically. You can wait for it to thaw, or thumb the wheel to get the cursor rolling again. Aggravating while doing office work, it's deadly during the pitched battles of Baldu's Gate II.

The Logitech Cordless MouseMan Optical mouse is stylish, ergonomic, and simple to install. But the frustration of cursor hang-ups makes it hard to recommend wholeheartedly.

— Sandy Brundage





## Personal Jukebox

★★★★

Remote Solution  
\$595  
www.pjbox.com  
714-674-5190

The Personal Jukebox can tote thousands of MP3 tracks in a fairly small package. It has a solid battery life, quick navigation between tracks, large LCD, and host of car accessories. The problems with this unit are limited, but worth noting — you can't use playlists and USB is slow to move files. But as a complete package, the Personal Jukebox is a worthy MP3 machine.

The Personal Jukebox stores 20GB of music in the space of a

paperback book. This means that you could play nonstop music for about two weeks.

With such a vast library, navigating between songs is an important consideration. The Personal Jukebox handles the shuttling reasonably well; CDs that you import are stored as "Discs," and they're a subset of the musician. While it's quick to find a CD or song by the band, you can't organize a playlist of unrelated songs without breaking up this navigation style.

With the USB interface, be prepared to wait for hours to transfer files to the device. But because the battery that lasts about ten hours and you can store weeks of music, the Personal Jukebox is a great player. If you're ready for an MP3 player, you can now have access to all your music at any time.

— Zack Stern



## eMarker

★★★★

eMarker.com  
\$20  
www.emarker.com

Most of us have listened to a song on the radio and wondered what it was, and who performed it. The eMarker lets you discover the origins of the tune and buy the disc with the push of a button.

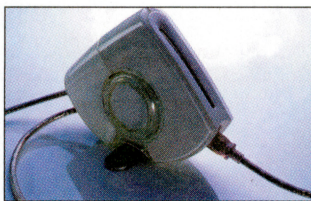
When listening to a new song, push the button on the keychain-sized eMarker. Its display will show a dot on the screen and internally record the time that the tune played. You have room for up to ten

different marks.

Once back at your Mac, pull the cap off the eMarker to expose the integrated USB plug. After sticking the whole device into a port, the eMarker will sync online and reference the time that you marked with song lists from your favorite radio stations. Many selections offer clips of music and cover art for identification. Finally, you can buy the CD from several online stores with another click.

The only missing feature is a way to tell it which radio station you listen to as you push the button — sorting out several stations on the computer can be tricky. But if you just want to know what's on the radio, the eMarker will help.

— Zack Stern



## FireWire 6-Port Hub

★★★★

Belkin  
\$100  
www.belkin.com  
877-523-5546

We have an endless supply of USB hubs, where one USB port is duplicated into many, but few companies have tried FireWire hubs. One reason is that unlike USB, FireWire can be daisy-chained so that each device leads to another peripheral. But a reason to consider a FireWire hub is to easily access the ports (like a Cube's, for example) or to network. If you need a FireWire

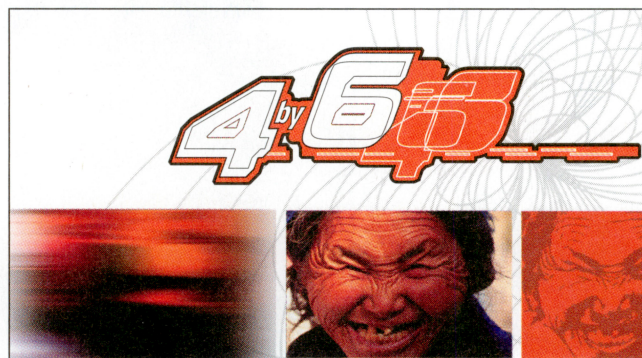
hub, this will please, with its solid design, LEDs, and five free ports (the sixth is for the Mac).

The Belkin FireWire hub is a simple creature. Plug the included FireWire cable into one of the ports, and connect it to your computer. Attach the supplied power cable. LEDs give feedback on its status, and a stand balances it vertically on your desk.

The only design problem with the hub is its size. While still smaller than most CD burners, this hub could have been designed to take up half its space.

While large, the Belkin FireWire hub worked without incident. Should you need to access ports from a desk, or try new FireWire networking setups, this is an option. But most users will be fine with daisy chains and their current setup.

— Zack Stern



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www.4by6.com



"Tropico takes the addictive building gameplay style of Railroad Tycoon II and adds an ample drop of banana republic intrigue to create a truly absorbing game."

—Apple.com

"A refreshing twist on the old building theme."

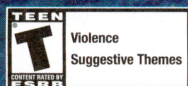
—Computer Gaming World

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**You are the newly-installed dictator of an obscure Caribbean Island. You must create a life of prosperity and happiness for your people. Success will bring the praise of your people, along with a fat Swiss bank account. Failure? Well, there's always martial law.**



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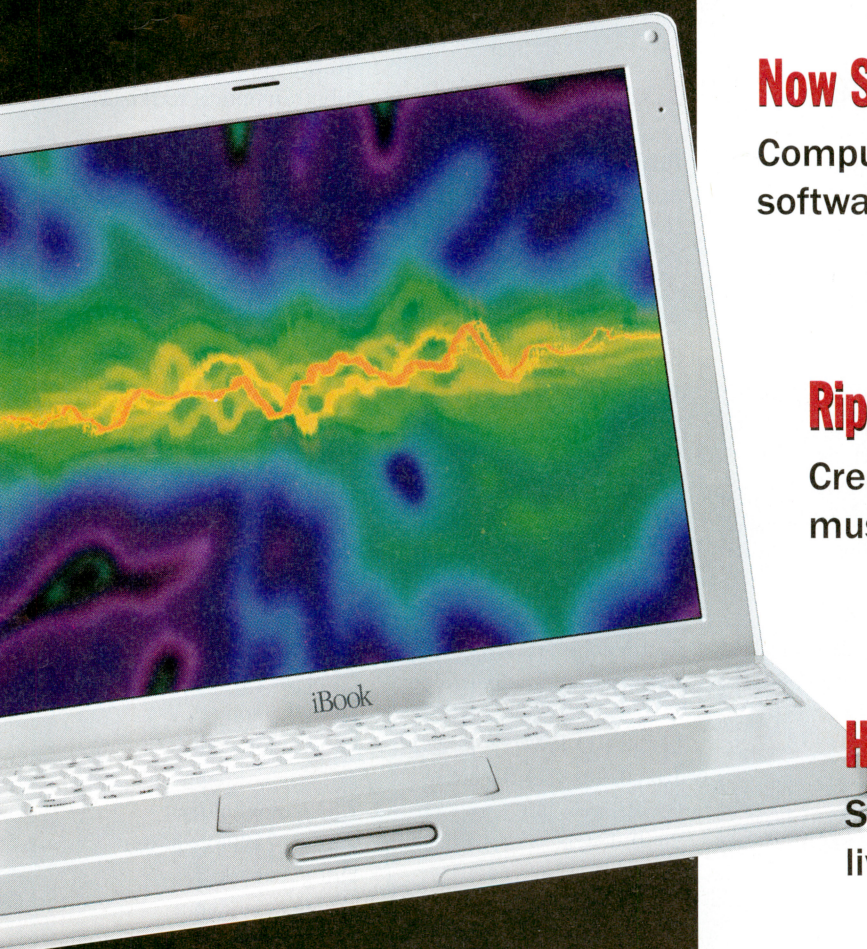


# iMac

www.imacguide.com

## Buyer's Guide

*The iMac Authority*



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Computers, cameras,  
software and more! -----



Pg. 42

### Rip, Mix, Burn!

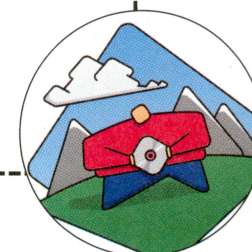
Creating your own  
music CD. -----



Pg. 44

### Hot Shareware

Software you can't  
live without -----

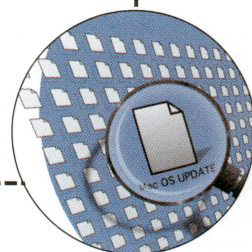


Pg. 46

### Mac OS

### Update Watch

The latest software  
updates for your Mac -----



Pg. 48

Learn how to burn  
cool music mixes with  
your sleek new  
iBook with CD-RW!



# Now Shipping

New Products for Your Macintosh



## Computers

### iBook

500MHz/10GB/64MB  
\$1,299 with CD-ROM  
Apple, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)

### iBook

500MHz/10GB/128MB  
\$1,499 with DVD-ROM  
\$1,599 with CD-RW  
\$1,799 with Combo Drive  
Apple, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)

## Digital Cameras

### PhotoPC 3100Z

3.0 megapixel, 3x optical  
zoom, video capture, 16MB  
\$799, Epson  
[www.epson.com](http://www.epson.com)

### FinePix 6800

3.3 megapixel, 3x optical  
zoom, video capture, 16MB  
\$900, Fuji  
[www.fujifilm.com](http://www.fujifilm.com)



### FinePix 2300

2.1 megapixel, 8MB  
\$280, Fuji  
[www.fujifilm.com](http://www.fujifilm.com)

### Coolpix 995

3.34 megapixel, 4x optical  
zoom, video capture, 16MB  
\$900, Nikon  
[www.nikon.com](http://www.nikon.com)

### Coolpix 775

2.14 megapixel, 3x  
optical zoom, 8MB  
\$450, Nikon  
[www.nikon.com](http://www.nikon.com)

### PowerShot S110

2.1 megapixel, 2x optical  
zoom, video capture, 8MB  
\$599, Canon  
[www.canon.com](http://www.canon.com)

### Kodak DX3500

2.2 megapixel, 8MB  
\$300, Kodak  
[www.kodak.com](http://www.kodak.com)

### Kodak DX3600

2.2 megapixel, 2x optical  
zoom, 8MB, video capture  
\$400, Kodak  
[www.kodak.com](http://www.kodak.com)

### Camedia D-510 Zoom

2.1 megapixel, 3x optical  
zoom, video capture,  
8MB. \$500, Olympus  
[www.olympus.com](http://www.olympus.com)

## Storage

### Predator CD-RW

8x4x32x CD Recorder  
(USB/FireWire)  
\$320, Iomega  
[www.iomega.com](http://www.iomega.com)

### Spark II External HD

10GB, \$260; 20GB, \$330  
FirewireDirect.com  
(USB/FireWire)  
[www.firewiredirect.com](http://www.firewiredirect.com)

### Rover PHD

3GB, \$290; 6GB, \$350;  
10GB, \$410. Sparc  
Technologies (USB)  
[www.sparctechnologies.com](http://www.sparctechnologies.com)

### LaCie CD-RW

16x10x40x CD Recorder  
(USB/FireWire)  
\$340, LaCie  
[www.lacie.com](http://www.lacie.com)

## Input

### Turbo Mouse Pro

10-button trackball  
with scroll wheel  
\$110, Kensington  
[www.kensington.com](http://www.kensington.com)

### Marble Mouse

2-button optical trackball  
\$30, Logitech  
[www.logitech.com](http://www.logitech.com)

### Trackman Wheel

2-button optical trackball  
\$40, Logitech  
[www.logitech.com](http://www.logitech.com)

## Printers

### HL-2460 Laser

25ppm, 16MB  
\$1,450, Brother  
[www.brother.com](http://www.brother.com)

### HL-2460N Laser

25ppm, 16MB, Ethernet  
\$1,690, Brother  
[www.brother.com](http://www.brother.com)

### S600 Color Inkjet

15 ppm, 2400x1200 dpi  
\$200, Canon  
[www.canon.com](http://www.canon.com)

### Z33 Color Inkjet

9 ppm, 2400x1200 dpi  
\$90, Lexmark  
[www.lexmark.com](http://www.lexmark.com)

### Z43 Color Inkjet

12 ppm, 2400x1200 dpi  
\$100, Lexmark  
[www.lexmark.com](http://www.lexmark.com)

### Z53 Color Inkjet

16 ppm, 2400x1200 dpi  
\$140, Lexmark  
[www.lexmark.com](http://www.lexmark.com)



## Software

**Now Up-to-Date & Contact 4.0**  
Scheduler/Contact Manager  
Requires at least Mac OS 8.6  
\$120, Power On Software  
[www.poweronsoftware.com](http://www.poweronsoftware.com)

### FreeHand 10

Illustration software  
Requires 64MB RAM, Mac  
OS 8.6

Fully supports Mac OS X  
\$399, Macromedia  
[www.macromedia.com](http://www.macromedia.com)

### FileMaker Pro 5.5

Professional database software  
Requires 32MB, Mac OS 8.1  
Fully supports Mac OS X  
\$249, FileMaker  
[www.filemaker.com](http://www.filemaker.com)

### Escape from Monkey Island

Adventure Game  
Requires 64MB, Mac OS 9  
\$40, Aspyr Media  
[www.aspyr.com](http://www.aspyr.com)

### Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2

Pro Skateboarding Game  
Requires 32MB, Mac OS 8.6  
Fully supports Mac OS X  
\$45, Aspyr Media  
[www.aspyr.com](http://www.aspyr.com)

### Myst III: Exile

Adventure Game  
Requires 64MB, Mac OS 8.1  
\$45, Ubisoft  
[www.ubisoft.com](http://www.ubisoft.com)

## Miscellaneous

### Griffin iMic Adapter (USB)

Standard audio input and output  
\$35, Griffin Technology  
[www.griffintechnology.com](http://www.griffintechnology.com)

### Mini DV Handycam DCR-PC9

10x Optical/120x-Digital Zoom  
\$1,300, Sony  
[www.sonystyle.com](http://www.sonystyle.com)

## the best of You Ask, We Answer

**Q** I purchased an iMac in 1999 with Mac OS 8.6. I've received Word and Excel files from several people who use PCs, and I cannot open them. Every time I double-click on the document icon it reads "This is a document that was created by an application program that is not on any disk now available." Help!

— Iris Simpson

**A** Assuming that you have Microsoft Office, your Mac does not recognize the type of file you have received from your friends. Mac OS 8.6's File Exchange control panel normally does a good job identifying foreign documents, but in this case, something has slipped through the cracks. It may be that the files aren't named with a file extension. Many PC documents have a three-character suffix that helps identify the file type, such as ".jpg." Without this, Mac OS 8.6 may be confused. Try adding ".doc" to the end of Word files and ".xl" to the end of Excel files, and then double-click the document icons. The files should open normally.

In the event the files still will not open, you have two other options. You can simply drag the document icon onto the application icon. This forces the application to launch and open the file. You can also launch the application, select Open from the File menu, locate the file, and attempt to open from within that application. In the rare event that neither of these methods work, you might conclude that the files sent to you have become corrupt. Ask your friends to resend the documents, and try the above methods once again.

**Q** I've got a new iMac and everything works just great, with one exception. I cannot seem to send email with my mac.com address! I'm using Outlook Express 5.0.2, and I input all the account information just as Apple described. I can't figure out what am I missing. Can you help me?

— Dirk Hoffman

**A** Apple's email server requires authentication in order to send messages. Although this might sound rather complicated to a novice, you only need to make a single change to your email account preferences to get up to speed. Launch Outlook Express, and select Accounts from the Tools menu. Double-click the entry for mac.com to make changes to your account. A new window appears. Near the bottom, you will find a section titled Sending Mail. Enter "smtp.mac.com" as the SMTP server. Now, click below the button under the text box to change the advanced sending options. Check off the third option listed in the pop-up window to tell Outlook Express that the SMTP server requires authentication. You also must be sure to select the option to Use the same settings as the incoming mail server. Close the pop-up window, and then click OK to confirm the account changes. You're now ready to send email via the mac.com server!

**Q** I borrowed a digital camera to take pictures of a house remodeling that I want to send to a friend. I have a Power Macintosh, and he has Windows-based PC. If I send the pictures on a Zip disk formatted for a Macintosh, is there any fairly straight forward way he could see them?

— Ralph Warner

**A** Unfortunately, Ralph, PCs cannot read Mac-formatted disks without extra software. Sending your friend a Mac-formatted Zip disk would be useless. You're going to have to approach this issue differently. Thankfully, Macs are rather flexible systems that can read and write to PC-formatted disks without a problem. Go to your local computer store and purchase a set of PC-formatted Zip disks. Pop one into your Macintosh, and save your photos to it in JPEG format. It's important that you end each file name with ".jpg" to help the PC determine the file type. Now you can send the disk along to your friend, and he will have no problem viewing your images!



# Burning Ambitions

## Create a Music CD with Your Macintosh

By Michael Eilers

**Rip. Mix. Burn.** We've all seen the ads on TV. But what do they mean? Is it really that simple? **Do I have to buy a new iMac to do it?** And what is a "funk bomb," and why would I want to have one dropped on me?

Well, we can't help you with the last one, but the good news is that with Apple's free iTunes, Disc Burner software, and a CD-R drive, it really is as easy as Rip, Mix, and Burn if you understand a few basic concepts. Soon you'll be making your own road trip music and party mixes for a mere 50¢ a CD (if you buy blank discs in bulk).

### Compatible Hardware

Apple's ad campaign is designed to promote the latest revisions to the iMac, iBook, and Power Macintosh systems, all of which ship with an optional CD-RW drive that can burn music CDs. However, a recent update to the iTunes and Disc Burner software has added support for many third-party CD-RW drives, both internal and external. Various IDE, SCSI, USB, and FireWire drives now function with iTunes, including popular lines such as Que, LaCie, and Sony Spressa. Combine a compatible drive with any of Apple's latest systems and you are in the music-mixing business. A list of compatible hardware can be found on the Apple website, on its iTunes home page ([www.apple.com/itunes](http://www.apple.com/itunes)).

### Rip?

This slang expression refers to the process of converting a compact disc audio track to MP3 format. There are many ways to do this, but we will confine our discussion to Apple's iTunes for the sake of brevity and simplicity. iTunes is a free download from the Apple website and is included on all recently shipping Macs.

Ripping a CD is simplicity itself; just insert the CD, check off the tracks you want from the track listing, and hit Convert. If you have an Internet connection, it can be very helpful to choose Get CD Track Names from the Advanced menu. This will contact an online database that should be able to correctly identify the music CD and automatically enter the track names, album, artist, and other data about the music.

MP3 compression is a *lossy* format — in order to compress the audio track down to a usable size, some of the data must be thrown away, and this means subtle peaks and troughs

of the audio signal are smoothed out. If you have an ear for such things, you will notice a loss of depth. Weak high treble and low bass are common side effects of standard MP3 conversion. The compression rate is defined in kilobites per second; a typical compression rate is 128kbps. iTunes defaults to better quality encoding (160kbps) which should satisfy most listeners.

When songs are burned to a CD, they are in AIFF format, not MP3. To burn the CD, MP3s are converted back to standard audio files on-the-fly, since this is the only type of data your CD player can understand. So the discriminating audiophile might want to skip the MP3 conversion process altogether and rip the tracks in AIFF format



instead, resulting in much larger files (30 to 40 MB), but pure audio, identical in every way to the source CD track. Although this requires much more hard drive space, you can always convert these AIFF files to MP3s afterwards or just throw them away once you have burned your mix.

To change the settings that iTunes uses to rip CD tracks, go to the Edit menu and choose Preferences, and then click on the Importing tab. Most users will do just fine choosing the MP3



Encoder and Good, Better, or Best from the menus.

Users who want to rip AIFFs instead need only select the AIFF importing option. You might also choose View Options from the Edit menu, and check the box next to Kind. This will turn on a column in the iTunes Library window that will tell you if your imported files are MP3s (MPEG audio files), WAVs, or AIFFs.

### Mix...

Once you have converted the tracks you want to combine to make a single mix CD, you have to organize them into a playlist. As you might expect, iTunes makes this quite easy. Still, it can be somewhat abstract for new users. All the MP3s on your hard drive are listed in the Library section of iTunes, found by selecting the topmost icon under the Source column. To make a new playlist from your existing audio track collection, just choose New Playlist from the File menu. The “untitled playlist” will appear on the left-hand side; make sure to click on it and change the name to something you will recognize.

Now, click on Library again to view your collection of tracks. Drag tracks that you want on the CD onto the name of your playlist and they will automatically be added. You may want to double-click on the playlist name and view the list occasionally for one important piece of information — at the bottom of the playlist window will be the total elapsed time of the music tracks (allowing for a second or two pause between each). This total should not exceed the maximum length rating of your CD-R blanks, which is usually listed on the packaging (74 minutes is typical). If you go over this total, the burn will still work, but your last track will be cut off.

Once you have your tracks collected in the playlist, you can change the song order by dragging tracks up and down

the list itself. You can even mix tracks in MP3, AIFF, and WAV format on the same list, as they will all be converted to AIFF before burning.

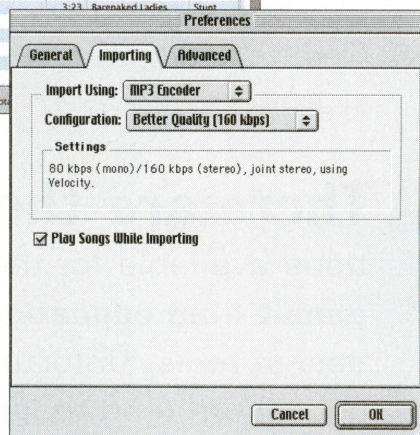
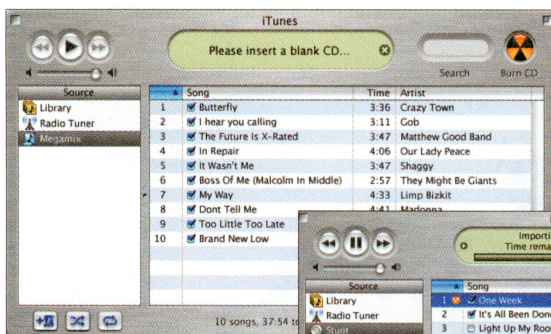
### Burn!

Burning is the cathartic moment when you forge your own music CDs from laser beams and blank media. For most users, this should be a two-click process — just click on the strange iris icon at the top right of the iTunes window, then click on the glowing radioactivity symbol. We'll forgive Apple for the visual hyperbole. This will burn your CD-R blank at the maximum speed your drive supports, with two-second gaps between each song. For those with older SCSI or USB CD-ROM drives, this may be a long wait; those with the new drives or external FireWire drives might find that a 70-minute audio disc can be burned in less than six minutes.

If you ever have a CD-R burn fail (resulting in an error message and an ejected, ruined CD), then you need to reduce the burning speed. The speed can be set in the Preferences window under the Advanced option. This is also where expert users can select the amount of pause between tracks, so you can create a gapless CD if you desire.

Although it might cost you a few CDs, the only way to discover the maximum speed your CD-R or RW drive can burn at without error is to choose the highest speed listed in the menu and burn a CD; if this fails, then

**Disc Buring Inferno** iTunes makes it easy to gather music from compact discs, convert it to MP3, and then burn a mixed CD of your very own.



choose the next one down the list and repeat. Factors that might affect a successful burn include Virtual Memory and File Sharing (turn these off) and running many applications in the background as you burn (quit these). Those with USB burners in particular will benefit from having AppleTalk networking turned off and all extra USB devices (joysticks, gamepads, and Palm cradles) disconnected. Also make sure there is no USB hub between your system and the drive.

The type and brand of media you choose can also affect how your drive can burn and whether it will be successful. All CD-R blanks are rated for speed and recording length, and it is good to take these seriously; don't try to burn a “6x” CD-R at 12x. In general, one CD-R is as good as another, but those with finicky CD players (which includes most in-car systems) might want to stick with CDs designed specifically for audio use (Maxell, Sony, and Memorex are just a few of the brands that make these). **iMac**



# Must-Have Shareware Tools

## Software You Just Can't Live Without

By Patrick Leyden

**There are thousands** of applications available for the Mac OS, **running the gamut from educational programs to graphic design tools.** Unfortunately, larger software publishers tend to ignore the need for some niche utilities and applications because the software lacks profit potential.

In many cases, a talented programmer will then step forward and develop the utility by themselves, offering it over the Internet for a small (and usually optional) fee. This type of software is called *shareware*. We've selected four applications that address important gaps in the Macintosh software library to highlight the ingenuity of our development community.

### Your Mouse... On Overdrive

For many years, Macs used the Apple Desktop Bus (ADB) interface for connecting hardware such as keyboards, joysticks, and mice. Since the ADB interface was proprietary to Apple hardware, PC peripheral makers were less inclined to make separate versions of their devices for the Macintosh market. The introduction of the iMac brought with it the cross-platform Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface, which replaced the aging ADB. This

change opened the Macintosh to a whole new world of hardware devices.

Although Mac users can plug any USB device into their computers, this does not guarantee that the hardware will function as intended. A brand new multi-button mouse might not work as advertised without dedicated software. This software, known as a driver, allows users to configure and control the unique functions of an external device. Many hardware vendors provide basic Mac drivers, but few can match the functionality of USB Overdrive.

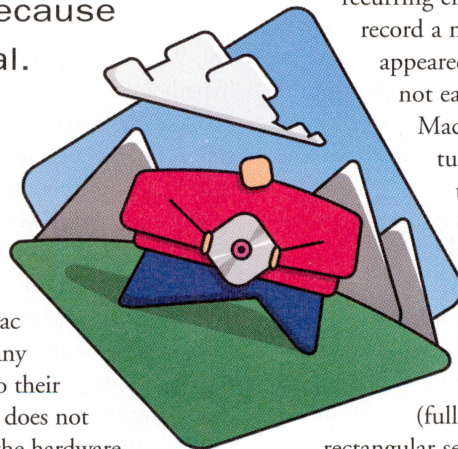
USB Overdrive is simply the most flexible way to configure any USB mouse, keyboard, or joystick for your

Macintosh. Available for a shareware fee of \$20, this control panel and extension combination can define the function of button clicks and programs keys to trigger macros. These and other tasks can be performed system-wide or on an application-by-application basis. Combined with enhanced support of input devices like game pads and joysticks in Mac OS 9, users have access to just about any USB input device on the market today (not just those that advertise Mac compatibility). Promised Mac OS X support ensures that USB Overdrive will continue to be the tool for mouse mavens for years to come. *Shareware, \$20. [www.usboverdrive.com](http://www.usboverdrive.com). Requires Mac OS 9.*

### Screenshots and Movies

Have you ever wanted to capture your screen image at a specific moment in time? Perhaps it was to document a recurring error message, or to record a noteworthy image that appeared on screen and could not easily be saved. The Mac OS has a built-in feature that allows users to take a picture of whatever is on the screen and save it as a standard image file. Unfortunately, the feature provides few size options (full screen, window, and rectangular selection) and may not function with some applications.

Ambrosia Software, known for addictive games such as *Mars Rising* and *Escape Velocity*, publishes a fantastic screenshot utility called *Snapz Pro 2*. This utility sports an array of powerful options that make it unlike any other tool available today. This software can take snaps of a window, an open menu, and of course, your entire screen. You can save images in a variety of color depths and formats, from PICT to TIFF and JPEG. You can also determine





exactly where the screenshot will be stored — on the desktop, in a convenient folder, or perhaps even in the clipboard for quick access. The software may also be able to grab screenshots of your favorite game while you play.

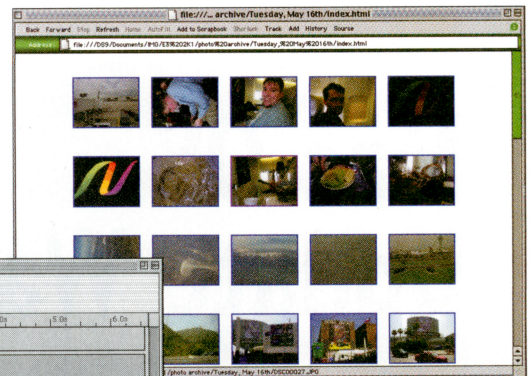
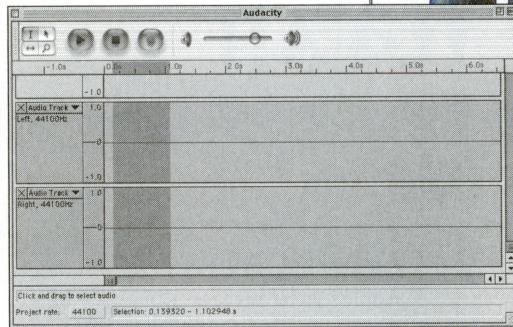
In addition to these impressive features, Snapz Pro 2 can also record a movie of the activity on your screen. The movie can include sound, allowing you to provide a running commentary, and it is stored in the venerable QuickTime format. It's the perfect utility for anyone looking to capture the screen contents for presentations and publications. *Shareware, \$40. [www.snapzpro.com](http://www.snapzpro.com). Requires Mac OS 9.*

### Shaping Sound Economically

Apple has made great strides in bringing powerful multimedia tools to the masses. iMovie, iTunes, and iDVD have changed the ways in which many Mac fans use their computers. However, if you are looking for a way to edit audio files on your Mac, you'll find very few low-cost choices. The absence of an Apple application for audio editing leaves users with powerful but expensive options such as Bias Peak or Steinberg Cubase VST.

Fortunately, a team of developers has embarked on a project that seeks to fill this void. The application they are developing is called Audacity, and while still in its infancy, it looks to be a powerful addition to the budget-minded multimedia software library. Audacity includes sophisticated audio editing features such as unlimited audio tracks, multiple undos, and the ability to use industry standard VST audio plug-ins. The software is currently at version .95, meaning that it is still under active development. It may exhibit some minor stability issues, so keep this in mind when you install the software. Even with this caveat, Audacity remains a powerful application that shows great promise. Since this project is part of the open-source software movement, it is offered free of charge and is available for

a number of computer platforms, including Mac OS 9, Mac OS X, Windows, and Linux. *Freeware, [www.cs.cmu.edu/~music/audacity/index.html](http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~music/audacity/index.html).*



**Shareware Showcase** ImageIndexer (above) can help showcase photos, while Audacity (left) edits audio just like the pros.

### Easy Image Organization

Despite the proliferation of scanners and digital cameras, it is difficult to find a quick, easy, and cost effective way to display and archive digital images. One solution is to use iTools' HomePage feature. This web-based utility quickly transforms the Pictures directory on a user's iDisk into a high-quality web page. There are drawbacks to using the HomePage tool, however. First, iDisk offers only 20 megabytes of free disk space, limiting the number of photos that can be archived. Second, creating and editing HomePage-generated sites requires an active Internet connection since the software is actually run from Apple's web servers. To get around these restrictions, shareware author Evan P. Hall developed ImageIndexer to complement Apple's HomePage.

ImageIndexer runs from your local hard disk drive rather than over the Internet. This allows the application to perform faster than iTools, since images do not have to be uploaded to your iDisk before you can work with them. The easiest way to use ImageIndexer is to simply drag and drop a folder of images onto the application's icon and let the program do the rest of the work. The speed of the image processing can take a few seconds or a few minutes, depending on

the dimensions and amount of images to be processed.

ImageIndexer generates small thumbnails of your images and an HTML page for quick viewing of these thumbnails. Clicking on any thumbnail brings up the full-sized image. The image index can serve as a visual table of contents for your photo archive, which, along with the associated image folder, you can easily burn to a CD. You can also use the image index to help show off your photos to family and friends on your Mac, or even upload the index and images to your personal web space (including Apple's iTools).

This simple and effective program requires Mac OS 8.6 (or better) and is Mac OS X native. The application's best feature may well be its price; ImageIndexer is Postcardware, meaning the author simply requests users of the application to send him a post card via snail mail. *Postcardware, [www.netmagic.net/~evan/shareware/](http://www.netmagic.net/~evan/shareware/)*

### Shareware Bonanza

These programs are a small sample of the hundreds of cool utilities, applications, and tools that independent programmers are developing every day. As Mac OS X grows in popularity, you can expect shareware developers to deliver more applications that provide a much-needed tool or offer people new ways to use computers. 



# Mac OS Update Watch

By Chris McVeigh

## Mac OS X 10.0.3

Apple's most recent update to Mac OS X provides additional application stability, more secure Internet file transfers, and (at long last) the ability to burn CDs from Mac OS X's iTunes. You can find the update with the built-in Software Update system preference (15MB).

## iTunes 1.1.1 for Mac OS X

This minor update to iTunes for Mac OS X provides support for burning audio CDs and must be used in conjunction with the Mac OS X 10.0.3 update noted above. You can download the software with the Software Update system preference (4MB).

## Authoring Support 1.1

This software updates the drivers for iTunes and Disc Burner to provide support for additional third-party disc burners. The update requires Mac OS 9.1 and can be downloaded at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12196> (2.4MB).

## Apple DVD Player 2.4

This maintenance update to Apple's DVD software fixes a number of compatibility issues and includes several minor enhancements. The software requires Mac OS 9.1 and is intended for use with iMacs, iBooks, Power Macintosh G4s, and PowerBook G4s. Get it at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12188> (3MB).

## AirPort 1.3.1

Apple's latest revision to its wireless networking software includes support for Point-to-Point Protocol over Ethernet required by some Internet service providers. Other new features include

AppleScript functionality and better interoperability with third-party devices. The software requires Mac OS 9 and can be found at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12021> (7MB).

## ColorSync 3.0.3

ColorSync, Apple's color matching software, helps ensure consistent color among displays, scanners, and printers. Version 3.0.3 corrects a number of minor bugs. You should only install this software if you're a graphic designer who relies heavily on ColorSync. The update requires Mac OS 9 and can be found at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11674> (4.7MB).

## Software Update 1.3.1

This minor update to Mac OS X's

Software Update system preference includes several small bug fixes and allows Mac OS X systems to automatically download the Mac OS 10.0.3 Update. The update requires Mac OS X and can be downloaded with previous versions of the Software Update system preference (660k).

## AppleScript Update 1.6

Apple's latest update to AppleScript provides additional support for Mac OS X. You can now create scripts within Mac OS X and use scripts within Mac OS X's Classic environment. The update requires Mac OS 9.1 and can be found at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12091> (2MB).

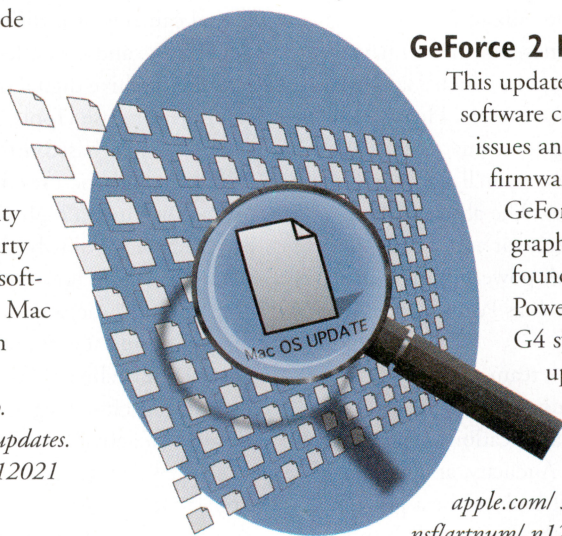
## GeForce 2 MX Update

This update fixes several software compatibility issues and installs new firmware onto the GeForce2 MX graphics card found in the latest Power Macintosh G4 systems. The update can be found at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n12073> and

requires Mac OS 9.1 and a GeForce2 MX graphics card (2MB).

## Mac OS 9.1 Update

Apple's recent update to Mac OS 9 improves the stability of the Mac OS and rolls in expanded support for iTools and Multiple Users. Sherlock 2 now features an entertainment channel, and the Finder has gained a new Windows menu to ease navigation through crowded desktops. The update requires Mac OS 9 and can be downloaded from [www.info.apple.com/support/macos9/9.1download.html](http://www.info.apple.com/support/macos9/9.1download.html) (one file of 70MB or 15 segments of 4.6MB). 

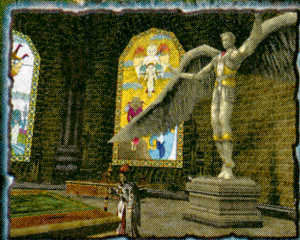




IN A  
WORLD RULED  
BY DESTINY  
AND TORN  
BY  
CONFLICT

SAVIORS  
CAN BE  
DESTROYERS.

# Summoner™



AN EPIC, ORIGINAL RPG WITH  
HUNDREDS OF CHARACTERS.



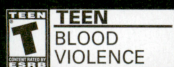
FULL 3D ENGINE SHOWS OFF  
AMAZING SPELL EFFECTS.



SUMMON POWERFUL CREATURES  
TO JOIN YOUR PARTY.

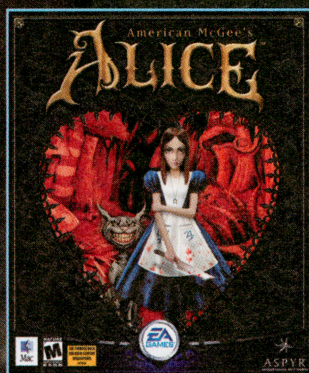


MULTIPLAYER ADVENTURES  
FOR UP TO 4 PLAYERS.

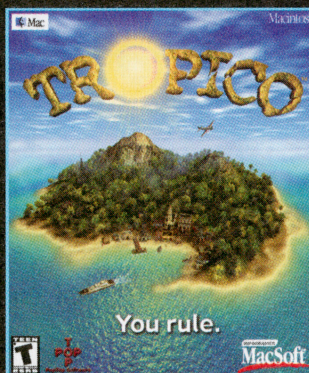




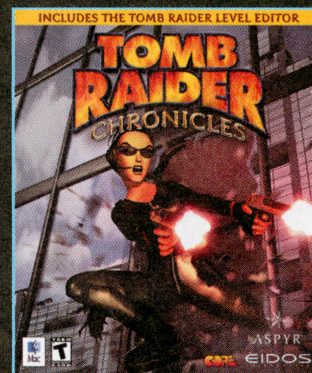
# Great Games Built for Mac



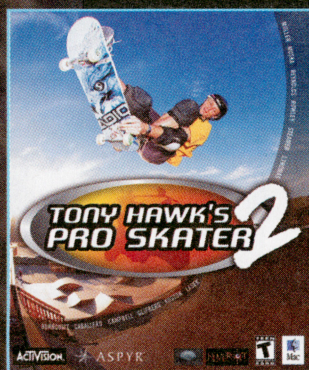
Now Shipping



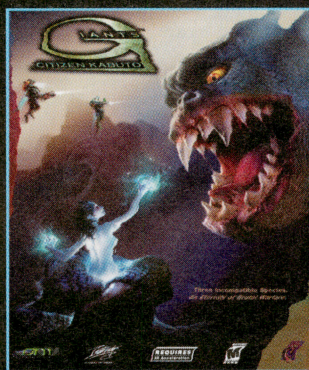
Now Shipping



Now Shipping



Now Shipping



Shipping this Fall



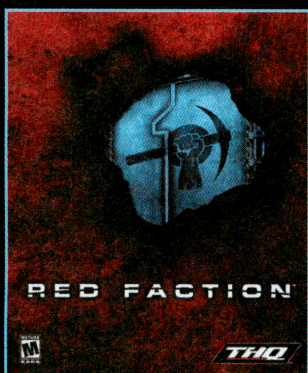
Shipping in August

  
ASPYR™  
www.aspyr.com

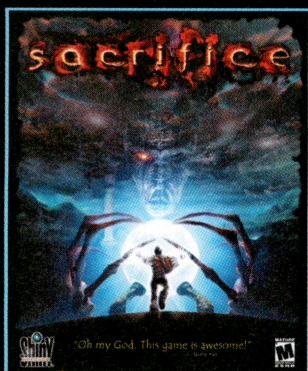
**graphsim**  
entertainment  
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# OS X



Shipping this Fall



Shipping this Fall

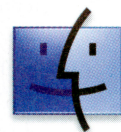
Visit [www.apple.com/games](http://www.apple.com/games)



[www.macplay.com](http://www.macplay.com)



[www.wizworks.com](http://www.wizworks.com)



Mac

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# Setting up a Weather Station

## *The Marvels of Meteorology on a Mac*

**Checking the weather is** a habit for many of us, and an obsession for others. Considering the changing nature of weather patterns associated with global warming, it's not surprising that many of us have made weather-tracking a hobby.

The weather might hold your livelihood in the balance of rainfall and drought, or your life might be threatened by seasonal storms. Or you might just like sunbathing on a scorching day.

Whatever the reason, listening to weather reports four times a day or taping Discovery Channel specials on tsunamis doesn't make you a nerd! Take weather fanaticism to new heights by using a Mac to set up your own weather station.

### Weather Software

Want to check the weather in your local area? That means reading the paper, turning on the radio and waiting for a report, or clicking to the weather channel on TV — or does it? Forget the traditional media, it is possible to have updated reports instantly on your computer!

**By Josef Martha**

Son of Weather Grok (SWG) is a free application that displays weather conditions from around the world. Once configured, it will download (you'll need an Internet connection) and display all sorts of weather information.

SWG works by taking advantage of meteorological station data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Most of these weather stations are associated with airports, so to configure SWG you enter the 4-digit airport code closest to your home. Enter as many location codes as you like; SWG has the ability to display multiple windows representing different weather stations. Finding the appropriate 4-digit code is easy, just search your location at the NOAA site; [www.nws.noaa.gov/oso/siteloc.shtml](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oso/siteloc.shtml).

SWG is fully carbonized for OS X. Configure SWG to check the weather at any interval you like and you will see the

weather automatically updated in the dock. If you have multiple locations in the dock, the color of the icon will change during weather updates — cool! Download SWG at the StimpSoft website, [www.stimpsoft.com](http://www.stimpsoft.com).

While SWG gives great current weather data, you'll need something else to provide weather forecasts. WeatherCenter (WC) is an affordable (\$10) solution that provides excellent worldwide forecasts via your Internet connection.

As soon as you start using WC ([www.smashin.com/WC](http://www.smashin.com/WC)), you'll notice a TV-style feel to the weather forecasts, but without the bad jokes, plaid suits or Al Roker. Just select your chosen city in the preferences panel. Want the forecast for tomorrow? How about a four-day forecast? Or travel conditions? Are you curious about the data behind the forecasts? WC displays all of this information.

Customizing WC with background pictures and different themes is fun. Unfortunately, the weather images provided could be more detailed, and it would be nice if the user could zoom in or select different regions. However, the images still





provide an interesting snapshot of the whole nation.

If your weather interest is more wide-ranging, try the elegant EarthBrowser ([www.earthbrowser.com](http://www.earthbrowser.com), \$20). Earth-Browser (EB) displays a gorgeous spinning planet Earth on your desktop, which can also serve as a screensaver.

EB isn't just eye candy; it's a convenient weather-reporting tool. The globe will display mini-icons representing the conditions of cities you choose. Clicking on an icon opens a window reporting current conditions and a four day forecast.

EB also displays clouds that are representative of actual global cloud cover. Update the cloud cover data at intervals, so you could easily check the current cloud cover over Africa, or track a raging hurricane approaching the East Coast.

If that isn't enough, EB connects you to webcams around the world, so you can see the weather for yourself! The program can display recent earthquake and volcano data on the globe. On the whole, EB is an indispensable tool for the weather fanatic.

## Weather Web

Your browser can also be a way to grab local weather, or in-depth forecasts. Let's start with a few dedicated sites. Weather Underground ([www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)) gets top marks. Not the prettiest of pages, but on a single home page they squeeze in just about all the information you could want at a glance. A map of the U.S. (or country of your choice) provides a color-coded view of temperature. Change the map with a single click or zoom in to regional maps for more detailed information. Create a list of city favorites — clicking on one yields detailed info with a 10-day forecast, and yes, you can bookmark your city for convenience. Weather enthusiasts will also appreciate ski reports, marine forecasts, the tropical storm page, a flight tracker, and much more.

Other noteworthy weather sites are CNN ([www.cnn.com/weather](http://www.cnn.com/weather)), Weather.com ([www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)), and Intellicast ([www.intellicast.com](http://www.intellicast.com)), which has a good email weather feature. Finding the weather site that is right for you involves

some personal preference, so spend some time perusing the list of almost 400 weather sites, servers and newsletters provided by the University of Michigan (<http://cirrus.sprl.umich.edu/wxnet/servers.html>).



## Measuring Yourself

There's nothing wrong with checking your good old thermometer, barometer, and rain gauge — it's economical and gets the job done. However, if you've got a few extra bucks and are determined to get your weather data onto your computer, it can be done.

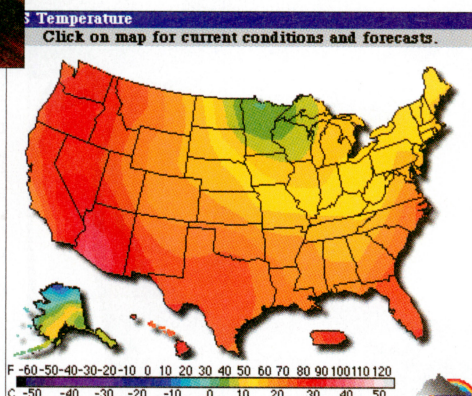
First, you're going to need to measure local conditions. There are several weather stations on the market that range in price from \$450 to \$950. For example, look at a wireless solar-powered unit like the Vantage Pro from Davis Technologies ([www.davisnet.com](http://www.davisnet.com)).

You will also get a console/receiver with your purchase that reads the humidity, temperature, rainfall, and wind data collected from the outdoor sensors.

The next challenge is getting the data into the computer — that's where things get tricky. The Davis WeatherLink software is terribly outdated, but the new Mac version for the Vantage Pro will have the ability to graph data over time, generate reports and upload data. All this is made possible by a small data logger that fits into the console and connects to your Mac via a serial cable (so you may need a



**Bring the** outside in by connecting your Mac to a Davis weather station or by sending the data to your Mac. Or browse the web for no-fuss reports 24 hours a day.



USB-serial adapter).

But you don't actually need the Davis software. W-Link (\$35) from Electric Park Research ([www.portup.com/~drjohn/home.html](http://www.portup.com/~drjohn/home.html)) works with any Davis weather station. See W-Link in action at a Montana school ([www.bozeman.k12.mt.us/weather](http://www.bozeman.k12.mt.us/weather)).

Finally, some weather fans have written their own software to record conditions — check out Andy's Weather Station ([www.poupart.com/us/andy/aboutweather.html](http://www.poupart.com/us/andy/aboutweather.html)) to read about his cool Mac weather station and software solutions.

Good luck setting up a weather station, and may all your skies be clear! **MM**

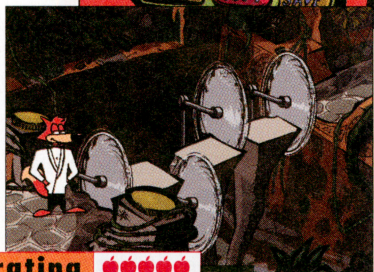
## Check It Out...

**Fascinated not only by forecasts,** but also by how weather patterns form? Browse the Weather Dude's site ([www.wxdude.com](http://www.wxdude.com)) to listen or read about the science of meteorology.



## SPY Fox: Operation Ozone

**As the mascara-wielding** master criminal Poodles Galore deploys a giant hairspray space station to rain down stinky spray clouds on the planet below, the ozone layer begins to fade. Crispy citizens will have no choice but to buy Poodles Galore's special suntan lotion and soon Poodles will control the world. Unless you stop her.



**rating** ★★★★★

Humongous Entertainment,  
800-499-8386  
Ages 7 and up  
\$25  
[www.humongous.com](http://www.humongous.com)

SPY Fox: Operation Ozone draws kids into educational intrigue, thanks to adventurous problem solving and double-O logic. Young sleuths collect objects and clues throughout the game. Clues

come in the form of word or picture combinations that, when in the right order, clear the way to the next part of the adventure. The

objects are super-spy gear supplied to SPY Fox by his pals at headquarters. The challenge is figuring out how and where to use each item.

The slick and witty agent, SPY Fox, is on the case and he's not

alone. Colorful co-starring characters provide help and humor along the way. Monkey Penny offers clues and advice via a spiffy spy-watch when SPY Fox seems stuck. Professor Quack has stocked a very special vending machine with all the latest and greatest neato gadgets to get SPY Fox out of any tight spot he can get into.

SPY Fox: Operation Ozone is rated E for Everyone, which means fun for the whole family. The clever, fun puzzles get kids to think while the humorous story keeps them from realizing that they're (gasp) learning, too.

— Llana Ivanovich

## Freddi Fish and the Case of the Creature of Coral Cove

**In Freddi Fish** and the Case of the Creature of Coral Cove, the mystery begins as the courageously curious femme fish Freddi and best pal Luther arrive at the grand opening of Coral Cove Park. To the duo's surprise, the Mayor shuts Coral Cove the moment it's opened due to reports of a sea monster lurking in the park. No one knows what the creature wants. And who left out that half-eaten sea cheese? Freddi and Luther set out to find the truth by searching for clues and doing some good ol' fashioned sleuthing beneath the deep blue sea.



**rating** ★★★★★

Humongous Entertainment,  
800-499-8386  
Ages 3 to 8  
\$20  
[www.humongous.com](http://www.humongous.com)

Does the latest Freddi Fish mystery live up to the chills, spills, and underwater fun of the other titles in the sea-sleuth series? You bet.

As usual, puzzles are the name of the game when tagging along with Freddi Fish. Kids will have a great time guiding Freddi and Luther through memory games, matching puzzles, and various types of problem solving. The aquatic duo is also constantly on the lookout for objects to trade with other characters for items they need. As young players help Freddi and Luther gather objects and figure out how to use them, they take steps towards solving the Coral Cove caper and saving the day. The only drawback is that they'll spend more time traveling than actually solving puzzles.

This educational and exciting adventure game encourages logical thinking, problem solving and memory skills in the young detectives who play it. Nurturing minds as well as capturing

hearts, Freddi Fish remains a heroine.

— Llana Ivanovich





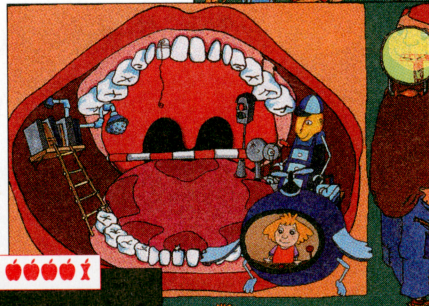
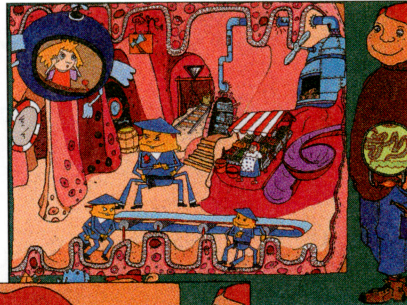
# Adventures with Millie

Join young **Millie Meter**, scientist and explorer, as she investigates the insides of a tree in *Millie Meter and Her Adventures in the Oak Tree* and the insides of a human digestive system in *Millie Meter's Nutrition Adventure*. Both brightly animated, musical, and entertaining games boast a high educational value because they teach young players. The energetic characters and personified items united with Millie's exciting missions make learning so fun that difficult-to-understand accents are easily overlooked.

In *Millie Meter's Nutrition Adventure*, Millie must discover why the giants are ill. She uses her heliball (a snazzy little winged-helicopter) to navigate the path of food through the body. Along the way, Millie meets a myriad of creative and intelligent characters — like Fussy, the Stomach — who help her learn about nutrition and digestion.

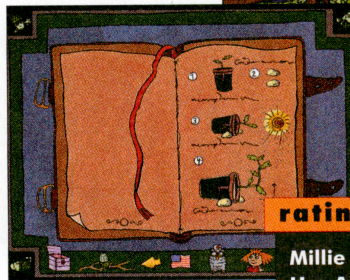
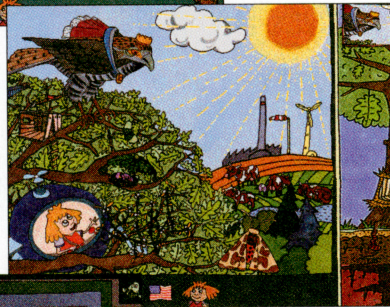
At the same time, Millie searches for a hidden game by clicking on the items and characters that may offer a short and informative nutritional tidbit, song, or story. After the successful completion of each discovered game, Millie wins a piece of the Golden Nutritional Pyramid. In one artistic activity she designs printable artwork with food by shrinking and magnifying each fruit, sausage, and egg. Finally, as a result of her extensive travels, Millie can solve her friend's nutritional woes.

Similarly, Millie Meter travels in her heliball in *Millie Meter and Her Adventures in the Oak Tree* in order to save the oak from becoming a "perfect lawn." She makes a deal with Twit, the giant landowner: If she can prove that the tree supports at least ten forms of life, and photograph each one, the tree will be spared. Millie Meter shrinks herself and her flying machine (guess how small — a millimeter) and travels through and around the trunk, leaves, and roots to reveal the ecosystem. In a challenging listening game, Millie helps players recognize



rating 

**Millie Meter's Nutrition Adventure**  
Tivola  
Ages 4 to 10  
\$20  
[www.tivola.com](http://www.tivola.com)



rating 

**Millie Meter and Her Adventures in the Oak Tree**  
Tivola  
Ages 4 to 10  
\$20  
[www.tivola.com](http://www.tivola.com)

bird calls. In contrast to her *Nutrition Adventure*, these hidden games are unrelated to Millie's mission.

One highlight in both titles is the *Trictionary*, a book of experiments, recipes, and tricks. Printable instructions, templates, and line drawings provide hours of fun away from the computer, which made this

educator smile. Millie shows how to press leaves for a tree book, play a "feeling the forest" game, and grow an oak tree. She is also an expert on potato printing, napkin sculpture, eating with chopsticks, and swallowing upside down.

The clever screen layout is a valuable tool for understanding the human body or an ecosystem. The main portion of the screen displays the current play, while on the right, a magnifying rectangle highlights Millie's current location on the entire body or tree. At the bottom, icons let you play games you've already found, or review photos and pyramid pieces collected.

Through another icon, players can change the language from French to German to "American." Interestingly, this last selection unveils a child with an English accent. Millie's occasional references to crisps and other British expressions may leave even the most intelligent American six-year-old temporarily confused.

Millie makes learning about nutrition and nature loads of fun. Her English accent may be difficult to understand at first but soon

becomes endearing. Through conversations with zany characters and entertaining travels, Millie gives young explorers a creative opportunity to view the human body and a tree from the inside out, while becoming experts on digestion and forests.

— Alison Stern



# In the Shadows of Amn

## *Baldur's Gate II Nears Roleplaying Perfection*

**Watch out, evil!** The sequel to the award-winning roleplaying game *Baldur's Gate* is here from MacPlay. And it's spectacular. Redemption or damnation is around the corner. Will you follow in your father's footsteps?

### Boo, Fetch!

Making that choice is what BGII is all about. With quests that reach beyond the typical RPG "FedEx" errands ("forsooth, go fetch this herb, wizard," or "bring thou me the dragon's head"), you'll have ethical and moral dilemmas around every corner. Four hundred hours later as the end of the game draws near (yes, 400 hours — this is a lot of game), the consequences of each decision return to haunt you.

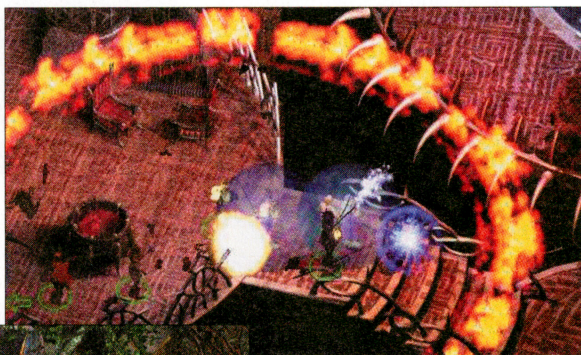
Most of the loyal band from BGI is back; Jaheira and Imoen, with Space Hamster Boo tucked away in Minsc's pocket.

**By Sandy Brundage**

Import your super-powered party from the first game or start fresh. If you love spellcasters, though, there's a slight snag. "Amn" in "Shadows of Amn" refers to a state within the Empire of Sands where the adventure plays out. Amn loves money. Amn hates magic. Rely on wits and tactics rather than that handy lightning bolt spell, because the city guards aren't easily amused (or evaded) by freakshow casters. But keep an eye open for ways to get around this little prejudice....

The game uses a 2D isometric overhead view with a maximum resolution of 800 x 600 that does justice to the graphics, drenched in bronze and stained glass colors. Watch the fireball spell rain down destruction with explosive style! Just don't watch too closely. My character caught fire, and seeing her panic as flames curled off her robe was amusing, but proved lethal.

Action and exploration are handled by the combined might



of keyboard and mouse. The point-and-click interface is logical enough that those new to the series won't have a problem getting their feet wet. The game is faithful to the spirit but not the tedium of the *Advanced Dungeons & Dragons 2nd Edition* rules, as

was the first; the combat and lev-

eling systems are like the first, making it easy for anyone fond of the table-top roleplaying game to feel at home in the computer version.

### Big, Bad and Gorgeous

There's one huge difference between *Baldur's Gate II* and the first.... here be dragons. Metallic dragons. Colorful dragons. Yes, the most magnificent creatures of dungeon lore are for the first time revealed in their full-size, lively glory. Survival tip: Metallic good. Colorful bad.

So far we've spotted a red dragon, a silver dragon, and a black dragon. The reds are renowned for being greedy



toastmeisters, weighed down by oversized egos. The egos can get too large for the smoky caves they like, so keep an eye out for a high perch nearby if a red dragon doesn't seem to be at home. That high perch might also be trouncing on the aerial turf of a silver. But the high-flying silvers enjoy humans, so much so that they occasionally travel as humans. The blacks, on the other hand, spit acid at all who lurch into their dank, swampy lairs. But, regardless of color, remember — they claw. Bite. Tail slap. Wing flap. Not to mention seriously bad breath. These are all very good



reasons to mind your manners. Unless you really, really

want the last piece of the most powerful artifact known to man, for instance. Where dragons are, there goes the rarest treasure.

Baldur's Gate II contains other improvements, like the ability to hide the interface to adventure in full-screen mode, and an optional autopause feature to slow combat down to a survivable speed by making it turn-based rather than real-time like the rest of the game.

We could go on. But we won't. Well, maybe just a little bit more. Baldur's Gate II: Shadows of Amn looks like the best roleplaying game to hit the Mac in years. If you've ever wanted to slip into the skin of a character in a magical land far away, this is your chance. Have fun storming the castles!

MacPlay,

[www.macplay.com](http://www.macplay.com)

# Go Ask Alice

*An Important Date with American McGee's Alice*

**In a twisted universe,** Alice must restore order to a surreal, fantasy Wonderland.

**American McGee's Alice is one of the darkest** titles Mac gamers have been looking forward to, and rightly so. Based on a sinister Wonderland — perhaps more closely resembling Lewis Carroll's original notion better than Disney's — you play Alice on a quest to stop the evil queen's ruinous treachery and iron rule. Along the way, you'll meet Wonderland's characters including a deliberate, proud Cheshire Cat who acts as a guide. But this time around, you'll battle enemies with thrown cards, dice, and other malevolent toys in addition to your wits. Because Alice looks incredible, with a powerful graphics engine and well-produced cutscenes, this title should be worth a look at its release. And the good news is that you should be able to pick up the game as this issue hits newsstands.

Remember, Alice, like many other action games, is geared towards adults. While seldom gratuitous, there is violence in Wonderland.

Alice's sinister toys defray enemies at any cost.

**By Zack Stern**

The most enrapturing aspect of Alice is its aesthetic sense. Specifically, the graphic style has never been seen before, and gamers will welcome a departure from the quest for a photorealistic game. Instead, the third-person graphics show you an animated, seedy Alice and her surroundings. Many levels balance the surreal with rolling floors and dancing walls. In a school that's missing large pieces of its floor and walls, you'll gaze into black skies and towers of leaning books, for example.

Gameplay in this third-person action game lets you drive Alice with the keyboard and look with the mouse. Like other effective third-person games, this mix lets you see your character interact with the scene while still controlling her. An automatic targeting system highlights foes so that Alice can line up her weapons. Unlike early games from this perspective, Alice rarely gets into a situation where you can't see what's coming because the camera is unobstructed.

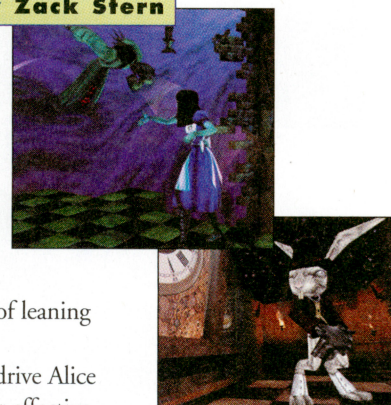
The Alice cutscenes further extend the shadowy aspects of the game. Effective shot choices with varying framing are what you'd expect from a well-edited movie. These scenes are interspersed throughout the game, when Alice meets other characters or when exposition is needed.

The sounds of Alice mesh well with its unnerving graphics and style. Simple music, which resembles children's tunes, plays in most areas. Subtle, distant yelling augments the harshest lands. (Yes, again, this isn't one for kids.) The character acting is also well-executed. Alice speaks with a plain, English style, and the Cheshire Cat is voiced with droll, deadpan irony. The Cat often speaks in riddles, and appears to help you find your way.

Alice embraces Mac OS X, and will feature a Carbonized version that will work in the new OS or in Mac OS 9.1. In late beta, there are few bugs, so gamers should look forward to a solid release.

Aspyr Media has a hit in the wings. Engaging action in a dark, though still whimsical, world make Alice a game at the top of the list. Interesting characters, warped visuals, and effective gameplay are why you should take a look at this title.

Aspyr Media, [www.aspyr.com](http://www.aspyr.com)





# Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2

**Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2** is what skateboarding would be like in a circus. Even more dangerous and full of action than real pro skateboarding, Pro Skater presents unbelievable stunts in exciting levels. Sure it's not an exact simulation of pro skateboarding, but the over-the-top action lets you achieve stunts that can't be repeated in real life. In addition to the choreographed action, the detailed graphics and variety in levels make Pro Skater worth checking out even if you're not really into skateboarding. Your secret is safe with Tony.

Once you finish the single-player game, additional game modes last longer. Multiplayer lets you skate against a friend. And you can build your dream park with the built-in editor.

Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2 is a complete title. It provides stunts, realism (albeit skewed towards action), top graphics, and the wish to play just one more game.

—Zack Stern



rating ★★★★★

Aspyr Media  
\$45  
www.aspyr.com  
888-212-7797

Pro Skater is deceptively simple. Most players will be able to do the tricks and transfers of the pros after a few games. But underneath this reasonably quick learning curve is a depth that isn't common in a sports game.

More, deeper tricks will beckon to you when away from your computer, and there's so much room to grow that last week's — even last night's — high score will fall to your latest skating performance. This balance of difficulty and improvement is just right; few games of any genre can draw players in so easily.

Fluid graphics complement the grace in which you fly through the air. 3D models of Tony Hawk and other pro skaters let you assume their form in skateboard competition. While some skies and distant backgrounds look thin, your focus will be on the detailed foregrounds. Beautiful character animation augments the visuals; the skaters not only look like their inspirations, they move like them.

## Tony's Secret Tricks

**Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2** has lots of cheat codes for you to get through rough spots or just play as secret characters. You can unlock the following codes by winning every level at 100% or pause a game and hold the left spin button.

**To use a jetpack**, press Up four times, Ollie, Flip, Up four times, Ollie, Flip, and Up four times.

**To unlock every level**, press Up, Slide, Right, Up, Flip, Slide, Right, Up, Left, Flip, Flip, Up, Grab, Grab, Up, Right.

**To unlock nearly everything in the game**, press Ollie three times, Flip, Slide, Up, Down, Left, Up, Flip, Slide, Ollie, Slide, Grab, Ollie, Slide, Grab.

**To unlock the secret characters** like Spider Man, press Flip, Grab, Right, Slide, Grab, Right, Grab, Slide, Right, Flip, Right, Up, Up, Left, up, Flip.

**To win the game with your skater**, press Grab, Left, Up, Right, Grab, Left, Up, Right, Ollie, Grab, Left, Up, Right, Grab, Left, Up, Right.

**To play with kid versions of the skaters**, press Grab, Up, Up, Left, Left, Grab, Up, Down, Flip.

**Perfect balance will keep you from tipping**. Press Right, Up, Left, Flip, Right, Up, Flip, Slide.

**Score an infinite special bar with Ollie**, Slide, Grab, Grab, Up, Left, Slide, Flip.

**Play in slow motion with** Grab, Up, Slide, Flip, Ollie, Slide, Grab.



# Pong

**Pong was one of the** first video games, and at the time 20 years ago, controlling a line segment that bounced a square blip across the screen was great fun. With gamers' expanding and more sophisticated tastes, this updated Pong offers something for even today's players. While the concept remains rooted in bouncing a ball past an opponent, the addition of powerups and interesting level twists like obstacles and helpers makes Pong an entertaining diversion. What's missing — and it's debatable if this is a bad thing — is that Pong won't make you play it for

hours on end. It's a good break from the rest of the world, but it won't keep you from your day job.

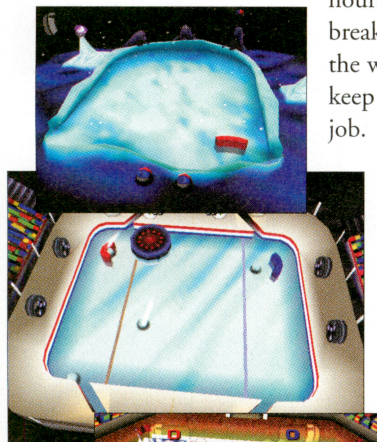
Pong is more than an update of its original name-sake. While the ball bouncing remains the same, various tweaks make the remake last longer. Dozens of themed levels put you on a soccer field, ice, or lake, but the variety is more than novelty. Each board

has its own hazards and feel; a jungle level has rolling logs to push the ball to one side, and the

ice level has polar bears and seals to help protect your goal. Collected powerups let you hit with great force or otherwise take an advantage. Even multiplayer matches let four friends compete. While these additions are part novelty, they're also why Pong is still interesting.

Some of the levels are tiresome, like a mid-level clown board, but it's easy to skip past low points and focus on the quick gameplay that Pong provides. For a brief game of Pong with modern sensibilities, look no further.

— Zack Stern



**rating**

MacSoft  
\$25  
[www.wizworks.com/macsoft](http://www.wizworks.com/macsoft)  
800-229-2714

# Tomb Raider Chronicles

**If you're a fan of the series,** you've already bought a copy

of Tomb Raider Chronicles, and you're happy with your purchase. But for newcomers, Chronicles will give some entertainment value from its graphics and acrobatic Lara Croft, but a lot of frustration. Difficult game controls will irritate players and deter them from continuing.

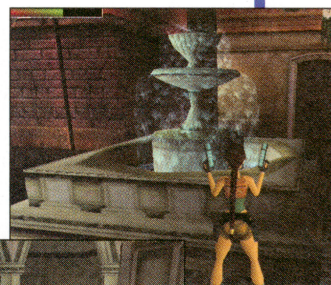
With levels in several locales, the graphics look reasonably good. An acrobatic Lara bounds through these areas should you master her controls.

But these sequences are difficult at best. All of Lara's movements — and she does some neat stunts and flips — are cascaded between each other. The result is that you can't always jump instantly while running, for example. Instead, you can only jump when her legs hit a transition point between a running cycle and a jump movement. When jumping between ledges, be prepared to fall a lot because of this delayed animation style. Even minute walking and positioning to flip a switch can be tedious.

The other disappointment in Chronicles is the camera viewpoint. A third-person action game, you see Lara from above and behind. Turning, say, to duck into an alley or look in another direction takes lots of setup. What usually ensues is that the camera doesn't follow for a moment, and Lara may meet enemies that are hidden from view.

When a game is this difficult to control and view, it is hard to enjoy. Some moments, after pulling off a needlessly tricky stunt will leave you pleased, but otherwise Tomb Raider Chronicles is a chore to get through. While Tomb Raider diehards will eat this title up, newcomers have little reason to join in the fray.

— Zack Stern



**rating**

Aspyr Media  
\$40  
[www.aspyr.com](http://www.aspyr.com)  
888-212-7797



# Centipede

**Centipede is a remake** of the like-titled arcade classic. Shooting the descending centipede before it reached your vessel was the essence of the original gameplay. The revised version offers a few choices in game types, but it's not enough to liven up the action. You're basically held to driving around and shooting monotonous insects. Though it may be entertaining for young kids, Centipede won't live up to most gamers' expectations.

Centipede certainly feels updated. The scenarios are smoothly drawn in 3D, and you pilot your ship from an overhead angle. Cute sounds (the shrill "Thanks Wally," when rescuing a person) along with effective music make this version unique.

But the biggest update in this Centipede is the movement options, and this change confuses rather than clarifies the game.

Centipede lets you drive in two dimensions, rotate, and go up and down hills. Special weapons add to

the cluttered controls, so unlike the original, this Centipede doesn't strike a good balance between simplicity and action.

What's left is a game with a learning curve that doesn't reward players with intricate action. The

situations are repetitive and don't offer much reason to continue playing. That having been stated, a younger crowd may find Centipede redeeming for its style.

Instead of the simple controls and straightforward gameplay of the original Centipede, this version gives you complicated controls that don't mesh with the repetitive levels. While some will enjoy the style over substance, most should think twice before buying this game.

— Zack Stern



**rating**

MacSoft  
\$25  
[www.wizworks.com/macsoft](http://www.wizworks.com/macsoft)  
800-229-2714

# Summoner

**Unique because of its 3D** engine, role-playing adventure game Summoner delivers lush graphics and a direct way to interact with its environment. While keeping the terms and characters straight is overwhelming at times, your goals are well-documented. The intuitive gameplay makes Summoner accessible to anyone looking for a good role-playing adventure.

The story unfolds with the protagonist, Joseph, on a quest to find four rings.

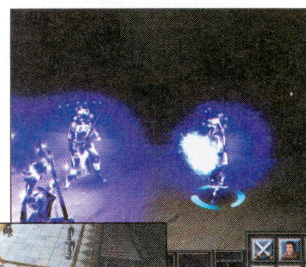
With this jewelry, he has the power to summon creatures to aid him, and ultimately restore order to his homeland. Three other characters join the party, and you can switch between them and upgrade their skills along the way. Summoner gives you these options to make its story your own.

Summoner's graphics will draw gamers into its fantasy world. Smooth waters and cobblestone streets are among the many touches that add to the realism. But the graphic layout also allows instinctive control of the game. A camera follows your characters through their journey. You can wander in any direction by clicking ahead, and if a wall gets between your view and the character, the camera zooms out and the wall becomes transparent. Players can also swing the camera around the characters to look in other directions, so you'll never have an obstructed view of the action.

In addition to clicking where you want to go, the interface is also accessible. Casting spells, picking up objects, and almost everything else can be controlled by the mouse. Or seasoned gamers can use hotkeys to instantly perform actions.

Summoner is a complete game, with effective story, graphics, and gameplay. Role-playing newbies or even adventure veterans will find a lot to like.

— Zack Stern



**rating**

GraphSim Entertainment  
\$45  
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# Shopping Online

## *Evaluate Online Vendors Before You Buy*

**Many new owners are leery** of purchasing items over the Internet. Alarmists would have us believe that credit card numbers are routinely plundered en route to online vendors.

In truth, it's easier for someone to tap your phone line and listen as you place a call to a catalog retailer than it is to intercept and decode credit card data that you send to an online retailer. It's far more important to ask, "Can I trust this vendor to sell me a quality product and ship it as soon as possible?"

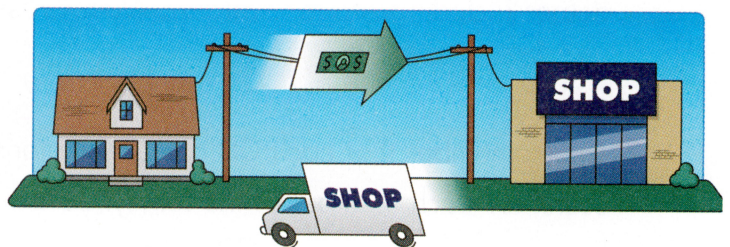
Learning to evaluate an online retailer will help you avoid trouble. The first rule of online shopping is to look for names you recognize and trust — vendors that advertise on television and in magazines, for example. You should also take into account the retailer's website.

**By Chris McVeigh**

Larger, reputable retailers often have well-designed sites since they can afford a dedicated designer and web support staff. Smaller retailers are often identifiable by poor page design (including gaudy background patterns) and slow load times. You can't always judge a book by its cover, however. Small Mom-and-Pop vendors may have poor design but offer impeccable service. If you're apprehensive about the retailer, look for its customer service telephone number and give them a call. If there is no phone number listed, look for another vendor.

The next issue to consider is the retailer's shipping and return policies. Most vendors charge for shipping, offering you a choice of several shipping methods. In-stock items are usually packaged and sent with overnight, two-day, or three-day delivery. Return policies vary from retailer to retailer — ask around. At a minimum, you should choose a retailer that allows you to return your product for immediate replacement if damaged. Find an online vendor that offers a complete satisfaction guarantee. This allows you to return the product if you change your mind or if you simply aren't satisfied with the item.

Many reputable retailers have their online catalogs tied to their inventory database. This allows the vendor to report the product's stock status within the product description page. Avoid ordering from retailers that fail to indicate whether or not the product is in stock. You should also shop around if the retailer reports your item is not in stock. After all, you want the product as soon as possible. The item you buy may be on backorder, and may take weeks to ship. (The only time you might want to bend this rule is if you'd like to place a pre-order for a newly announced item, such as an iMac.)



The final task is to ensure that the online order form is secure. Although it's common practice for large online retailers to use a secure order form, smaller vendors may eschew the technology since it is somewhat difficult to implement. As you input your order, look in the bottom left corner of your browser. If the order form is secure, you will see a small, locked padlock icon. This verifies that your credit card number and personal data will be encrypted before it is transferred to the retailer's server. In order to decode the information a thief would have to determine the decryption key, which has over a trillion possible permutations. He'd have better luck robbing a bank.



# The Internet

## *A Wide World of Wires*

**An amusing misconception is that** the Internet is a massive computer located somewhere in the United States, a single Microsoft product offered by a humongous commercial entity. This couldn't be further from the truth.

The Internet is a collection of millions of computers joined together through a series of vast networks that span the globe. It is called a Net (or Web) because of the criss-crossed nature in which the computers are connected together.

Admittedly, it's sometimes difficult to visualize the Internet. A good analogy is a city. In the city you have homes, businesses, entertainment complexes, schools, churches, and non-profit establishments. You can travel to any building using any series of streets that lead to its front door. More often than not, however, you'll simply find your way to a local highway and follow it around the city until you near your destination. Then, you'll turn off and navigate the streets until you arrive at the building.

**By Chris McVeigh**

The Internet functions very similarly. Your computer is connected to an Internet Service Provider (ISP) via a modem or DSL/Cable connection, allowing you to leave the confines of your home. The ISP provides a street between your computer and the Internet's equivalent of a highway — a fiberoptic backbone that shuttles information at the speed of light.

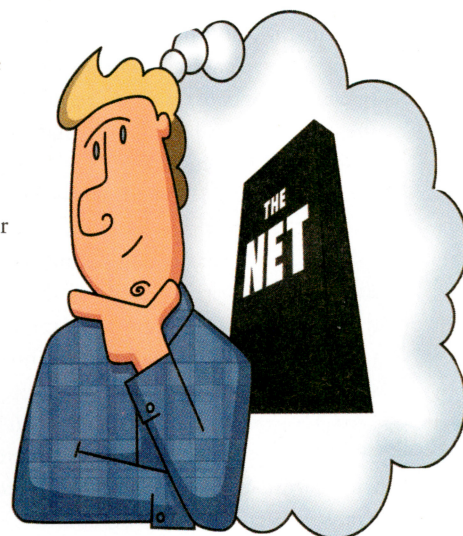
Each computer connected to the Internet is assigned an Internet Protocol (IP) address — a compound number consisting of four sets, such as 123.123.123.4. The IP address serves as a digital phone number that allows any computer connected to the Internet to communicate with any other computer on the Internet. And like a telephone number, the IP Address includes area code information that reveals approximately where it is located.

Online vendors, businesses, and schools have static IP addresses that do not change. Since these addresses are not descriptive and are hard to remember, they are frequently given an alphanumeric alias known as a domain name. You'll agree it's much easier to remember [www.machome.com](http://www.machome.com) than it is to recall 157.22.143.10.

Say you'd like to visit MacHome's online site. You launch your Internet browser and type in [www.machome.com](http://www.machome.com). Your browser then transmits the alphanumeric alias to a computer called a domain

name server, which notes that [www.machome.com](http://www.machome.com) is actually server 157.22.143.10. Your browser then sends a request for information to IP address 157.22.143.10. Once MacHome's server has received the request, it sends textual code to your computer known as hypertext markup language, or HTML. The hypertext describes the layout of MacHome's home page, including the style of text, the location of columns and the placement of graphics. After the code has been received, your browser requests that the MacHome server send the images called upon by the HTML. The information is shuttled from MacHome's server, to MacHome's ISP, to a fiber optic backbone in San Francisco, across the nation to your ISP, and then through a telephone or cable line to your computer.

This process is repeated each time anyone, anywhere, enters an address into a browser. Trillions of bits of information are shuttled around the world each day, delivering personal messages, information, music and video. Alexander Graham Bell would be astonished. **MH**





# Upgrade to X, Mac Remotes, and Virus Protection

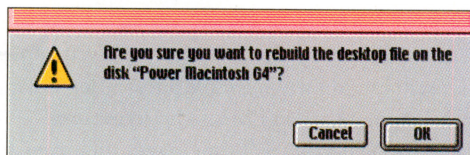
## Rebuild It

**Q** I have a Power Macintosh G4. When I attempt to rebuild the desktop (holding down Option and Command), nothing happens. On other Macs, a message appears on the screen and asks if I want to rebuild the desktop. Am I to assume that it has rebuilt the desktop?

— Susan

**A** The familiar dialog asking you to authorize a rebuild of the desktop should still appear. It's important to press Option and Command simultaneously before your desktop loads. I suspect you are having a problem with a third-party extension or control panel. Sometimes the programmer will include a key combination to disable the extension or control panel at

By Chris McVeigh



startup. Less seasoned programmers can forget about the option-command combo that rebuilds the desktop. So, it's possible that when you press Option-Command, it disables a third-party control panel instead. To work around this, you can press Option-Command after the extensions have loaded (but before the desktop appears). Another solution is to start up holding down the shift key to turn off extensions. Once the Mac OS 9

splash reports that extensions are off, you can press Option-Command.

## 9.1 Before X

**Q** I have Mac OS 8.6. Do I have to install Mac OS 9.1 before I attempt to install Mac OS X? That's pretty expensive.

— Chris Pociask

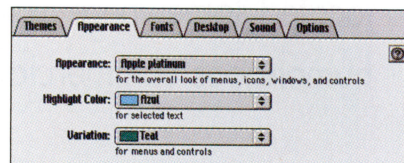
**A** In order to use Mac OS X's Classic compatibility environment (allowing you to use applications written for Mac OS 8/9), you must install Mac OS 9.1 before you install Mac OS X. The good news is that Apple includes a Mac OS 9.1 CD with each copy of Mac OS X. So, there's no need to rush out and buy a boxed copy of Mac OS 9.1.

## Highlight Changes

**Q** I recently purchased an iMac and I use AppleWorks 6. How can I change the color when words are selected? The present color is almost impossible for me to see when I highlight a sentence or words (I'm color blind).

—R. Brown

**A** You can change the highlight color using the Appearance Control Panel. Select Control Panels from the Apple Menu, and double-click the Appearance icon. Once the control panel appears, click the Appearance tab at the top. The second pop-up menu listed is Highlight Color. You can choose whatever color you think works best from the menu, or for maximum contrast, select other.



This brings you to the color picker. Click the crayon icon at the left, and select the black crayon from the box. Now text will be inverted when highlighted, making it far easier to read.

## Upgrade or Replace?

**Q** I have a first generation Power Macintosh G3. I'd really like to use USB and FireWire devices, Mac OS X, iTunes, iMovie, voice recognition software, and a CD-RW. Should I upgrade the processor and add a USB or FireWire card? Or should I just go for a whole new machine? I'd love a Titanium PowerBook, but that's at least a grand more than the marriage would stand. What's a guy to do?

— Roy F. Wilson

**A** Jury-rigging an older Macintosh to support the latest technologies can be both an expensive and fruitless endeavor. Once you add the cost of a processor upgrade (\$500 for 500MHz G3), a USB/FireWire card (\$130), a CD-RW (\$200), and iMovie (\$49), you're getting very close to the price of a new iMac (\$1199 with CD-RW). Moreover, there's no guarantee you will be able to run Mac OS X, since Apple does not support third-party processor upgrades with the new operating system. Many processor upgrade manufacturers are working around the issue, but you may still have



a gamut of problems getting the USB/FireWire card to work seamlessly under Mac OS X. A new iMac or iBook would be a much wiser investment.

## Remote Control

**Q** I would like to purchase a remote control for my PowerBook to operate PowerPoint presentations from a distance. Can you find such an animal?

— D. Robinson

**A** You should consider Keyspan's Digital Media Remote (\$50). The device plugs into any available USB port and allows you to control PowerPoint presentations, DVD Player, QuickTime Player, and iTunes. The software can be customized to support additional applications, too, so you've got a lot of flexibility with the package. You can learn more at [www.keyspan.com](http://www.keyspan.com).

## Virus Inoculation

**Q** I am a new Mac user and I'm still adjusting. One thing I've decided is that I'm happy with my switch from PCs. I'm curious about anti-virus applications, though. Is that an option for the Macintosh? I can't seem to find any on my iMac.

— Jeff Liles

**A** Virus protection software is not included with your iMac. There's no need to panic, however. The Mac platform has largely been avoided by the virus-writing underworld. Windows is far more pervasive, making it a much better audience for digital terrorism. This preoccupation with the other guys has been a boon for Mac users, but sadly, cross-platform applications have lead to cross-platform viruses. There are two commercial solutions for Mac users looking to protect themselves: Norton Antivirus from Symantec (\$90, [www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com)) and Dr. Solomon's Virex (\$50, [www.drsolomon.com](http://www.drsolomon.com)). Keep in mind that viruses are a rarity on the Macintosh, and you may only need one of these applications if your work involves a heavy exchange of files with coworkers.

## Tons of Fonts

**Q** I have an iMac with 96MB of RAM and Virtual Memory is on.

Now, if I install additional fonts (maybe a thousand), how will it affect the performance of my computer? Will it slow it down? Will it eat up more RAM?

— Daniel D. Montecillo

**A** In theory, you can add as many fonts as you like to your iMac. There is a possibility you may overload your system, however, if you wantonly add hundreds of typefaces. Once launched, an application that includes a font menu will take a moment to load information about each font. The more fonts you have, the longer this may

take. Another problem might crop up in applications that offer a type preview in the font menu — the system then has to draw hundreds of typefaces as you scroll, which is further complicated if it automatically anti-aliases fonts.

Given your intention to add a slew of fonts to your system, I'd suggest you consider a font manager such as Adobe Type Manager Deluxe (\$70, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) or Suitcase 9 (\$80, [www.extensis.com](http://www.extensis.com)). Both utilities allow you to organize your typefaces and load them as required, so they'll even handle as many fonts as you want. You can also create font sets that automatically activate when you open specific applications to best handle system resources. **MH**



have questions?

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questions@**machome.com**

# MacHome Quiz

Answers from page 27

1. To capture a screenshot of a small area, press Command-Shift-4, and draw a selection. To capture a window, press Command-Shift-Caps Lock-4 and click inside the window. Command-Shift-3 captures the whole screen.
2. To get rid of something that won't be deleted, press Option while you empty the Trash.
3. A cathode-ray tube is the glass box inside a monitor or TV that holds the electrons that are fired to make the screen image. This is different from a liquid-crystal display (LCD) that has small transistors that alter the angle of liquid crystals to show different degrees of color. Because the electrons are always fired from the back of a CRT, the boxy monitors can only shrink so much.
4. A trick question of sorts: how much RAM you need depends on what you do. Most users should have 192MB RAM, but gamers and people who do lots of media creation should have about 256MB or more. There's no problem with having too much RAM; just don't short yourself.
5. With enough hubs, USB can handle up to 127 devices so you can add mice, keyboards, drawing tablets, and more.
6. Let the extensions load, but hold down Shift as soon as the desktop begins to draw. You'll turn off any tasks set to launch at startup.
7. A blinking question mark means that a Mac is having trouble finding a System Folder. If the question mark goes away, and the Mac begins starting up, the Mac found it. To help the process move along, go to the Startup Disk control panel (or system preference in Mac OS X) to select the right startup volume.
8. If you can't start up, and need to try to boot from a CD but can't get another disc out, slide a straightened paper clip into the small hole on the CD tray.
9. iDVD lets you master discs of up to one hour.

Ellen's MacBook computer



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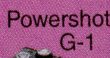
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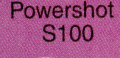
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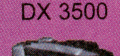
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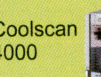
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| APS 40GB 7200 RPM FireWire Plus Hard Drive | 289.95   |
| APS 60GB 7200 RPM FireWire Plus Hard Drive | 329.95   |
| APS 75GB 7200 RPM FireWire Plus Hard Drive | 519.95   |

### APS Ultra160 LVD SCSI Drives

| Model                     | RPM    | *Internal | External |
|---------------------------|--------|-----------|----------|
| APS ST 18GB Ultra160 LVD  | 7200†  | \$279.95  | \$349.95 |
| APS ST 36GB Ultra160 LVD  | 7200†  | 449.95    | 519.95   |
| APS ST 18GB Ultra160 LVD  | 10,000 | 309.95    | 379.95   |
| APS ST 36GB Ultra160 LVD  | 10,000 | 569.95    | 639.95   |
| APS ST 73GB Ultra160 LVD  | 10,000 | 999.95    | 1,069.95 |
| APS ST 180GB Ultra160 LVD | 7200   | —         | 2,299.95 |

Drives listed above carry a five-year warranty, except those marked.

† Marked drives carry a three-year warranty.

### APS Ultra SCSI Drives

| Model                  | RPM  | *Internal | APS Pro2 |
|------------------------|------|-----------|----------|
| APS ST 18GB Ultra SCSI | 7200 | \$279.95  | \$349.95 |

Drives listed above carry a five-year warranty.

\* Internal configuration does not include a mounting bracket. Intended as a replacement internal SCSI drive.



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## APS 40GB USB Hard Drive

- 7200 rpm hard drive
- Hot-swappable

### APS USB Hard Drives

| Model                   | RPM  | APS Pro2 |
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| APS 40GB USB Hard Drive | 7200 | 219.95   |



**\$399.95**

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- Powerful, pocket-sized CD-RW
- U&I technology — FireWire and USB ports
- Mac and PC compatible

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| Model                    | Price    |
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| LaCie 10GB PocketDrive   | 299.95*  |
| LaCie 20GB PocketDrive   | 399.95*  |
| LaCie 30GB PocketDrive   | 549.95*  |
| LaCie 48GB PocketDrive   | 849.95   |

\* price after \$30 mail-in rebate.



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- Fast access, mammoth capacity
- Hot-swappable drives, fans, power supplies
- RAID levels 0, 1, 0+1, 4 and 5

### APS RAID System

| Model                            | Price      |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| APS Hardware RAID 5/18GB LVD 10K | \$6,199.95 |

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- Prices and specifications are subject to change without notice.
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| Order   | MHz | RAM   | FREE RAM | TOTAL RAM | Hard Drive | DVD Drive | 56K Modem | USB Ports | FireWire Ports | iMovie 2 | iTunes | Price!  | or as low as |
|---------|-----|-------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|----------|--------|---------|--------------|
| #956566 | 400 | 128MB | 256MB*   | 384MB     | 10GB       | Yes       | 56K       | Two       | One            | Yes      | Yes    | \$2,594 | \$73/mo**    |
| #956567 | 500 | 256MB | 256MB*   | 512MB     | 20GB       | Yes       | 56K       | Two       | One            | Yes      | Yes    | \$3,494 | \$98/mo**    |

\*Professional installation fee of \$30 required for free RAM. Hurry! MacMall RAM promotion ends 8/10/01.

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**only \$1,694!**

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|---------|--------|-------|----------|-----------|------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------|
| #956215 | 466    | 128MB | 256MB*   | 384MB     | 30GB       | 1MB L2         | Yes       | CD-RW             | Yes              | RAGE 128           | \$1,694 | \$48/mo**    |
| #956216 | 533    | 128MB | 256MB*   | 384MB     | 40GB       | 1MB L2         | Yes       | CD-RW             | Yes              | NVIDIA GeForce2 MX | \$2,194 | \$62/mo**    |
| #957453 | 533(2) | 128MB | 256MB*   | 384MB     | 40GB       | 1MB L3         | Yes       | CD-RW             | Yes              | NVIDIA GeForce2 MX | \$2,494 | \$70/mo**    |
| #957951 | 733    | 256MB | 256MB*   | 512MB     | 60GB       | 1MB L3         | Yes       | CD-RW             | Yes              | NVIDIA GeForce2 MX | \$2,994 | \$84/mo**    |
| #956565 | 733    | 256MB | 256MB*   | 512MB     | 60GB       | 1MB L3         | Yes       | DVD-R/CD-RW Combo | Yes              | NVIDIA GeForce2 MX | \$3,494 | \$98/mo**    |

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- 64MB or 128MB of PC100 SDRAM; supports up to 640MB

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500MHz  
iBook!



# \$1,294!

New iBook 500MHz starting at

| Order   | MHz       | RAM   | FREE RAM | TOTAL RAM | Hard Drive | 56K Modem | Drive             | USB Ports | FireWire Port | iMovie 2 | iTunes | Price!   | or as low as |
|---------|-----------|-------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|--------|----------|--------------|
| #959626 | 500MHz G3 | 64MB  | 128MB*   | 192MB     | 10GB       | Yes       | CD-ROM            | 2         | 1             | Yes      | Yes    | \$1,294* | \$37/mo*     |
| #959627 | 500MHz G3 | 128MB | 128MB*   | 256MB     | 10GB       | Yes       | DVD-ROM           | 2         | 1             | Yes      | Yes    | \$1,494* | \$42/mo*     |
| #959633 | 500MHz G3 | 128MB | 128MB*   | 256MB     | 10GB       | Yes       | DVD-R/CD-RW Combo | 2         | 1             | Yes      | Yes    | \$1,794* | \$50/mo*     |

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**Own this iBook 500MHz for as low as \$37/month with the New MacMall EZ Payment Plan!\***

## Additional FREE RAM with Purchase of Apple iMacs!

Indigo (#957490)

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| MHz               | 400   |
| RAM               | 64MB  |
| FREE RAM          | 64MB  |
| TOTAL RAM         | 128MB |
| Hard Drive        | 10GB  |
| CD-ROM            | YES   |
| 56K Modem         | YES   |
| USB Ports         | 2     |
| FireWire Ports    | 2     |
| iTunes & iMovie 2 | YES   |

# \$899!

or as low as \$26/month with the New MacMall EZ Payment Plan!

Flower Power (#957493), Blue Dalmatian (#957492), Indigo (#957491)

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| MHz                | 500   |
| RAM                | 64MB  |
| FREE RAM           | 128MB |
| TOTAL RAM          | 192MB |
| Hard Drive         | 20GB  |
| CD-RW              | YES   |
| 56K Modem          | YES   |
| USB/FireWire Ports | 2     |
| iTunes & iMovie 2  | YES   |

# \$1,194!

or as low as \$34/month with the New MacMall EZ Payment Plan!

Flower Power (#957496), Blue Dalmatian (#957495), Graphite (#957494)

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| MHz                | 600   |
| RAM                | 128MB |
| FREE RAM           | 128MB |
| TOTAL RAM          | 256MB |
| Hard Drive         | 40GB  |
| CD-RW              | YES   |
| 56K Modem          | YES   |
| USB/FireWire Ports | 2     |
| iTunes & iMovie 2  | YES   |

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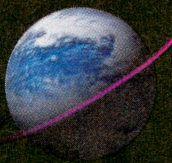
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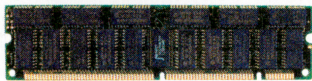
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| 64MB \$49.95 \$54.95                          | 64MB \$49.95 PPC              |
| 64MB \$34.95 4k Special                       |                               |

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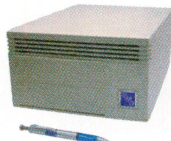
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 for NEW G4 PowerMac 466-733MHz



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|---------------------|----------------------|
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 for PowerMac G3/G4, G4 Cube & iMac 350MHz-600MHz  
 Also compatible with most Intel/AMD PCs using SDRAM memory.



|                     |
|---------------------|
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**256MB PC100 CL2 ONLY \$47<sup>95</sup>**  
 For G3 Beige, Blue & White, & G4 "Yikes!"

|                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|
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## OWC Laptop Screen Protector

Protect your screen from keyboard marks!

Safe, durable, and simple to use.

ONLY \$14<sup>95</sup>



No more marks on your PowerBook G3 Series, G4 Titanium, or iBook screens!

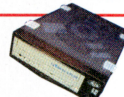
PowerBooks since the '98 Wallstreet models up to the new G4 Titanium have had problems with keyboards coming into contact with the delicate LCD display, leaving marks on the screen that sometimes will not come off. Most are oils left from your fingers on the key caps; however, some are not removable. The OWC Laptop Screen Protector is a beautiful solution to the problem.

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|                                                               |                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
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## iMac Upgrades



**NewerTech G3/466MHz**

\$289<sup>95</sup>

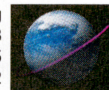
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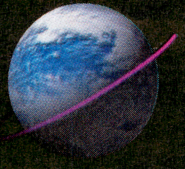
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Mac OS X Compatible

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60GB .....\$279.95 80GB.....\$349.95

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7200 RPM <9ms w/Cables & Software

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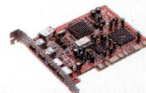
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Orange Micro 2 FW / 2 USB \$129.95

Sonnet 2 FW / 2 USB \$138.95

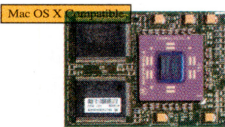
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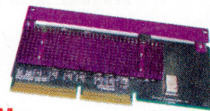
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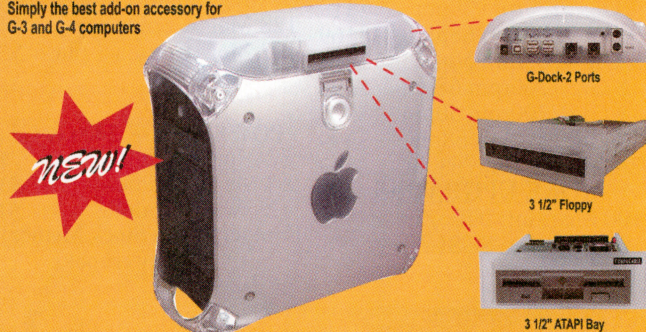
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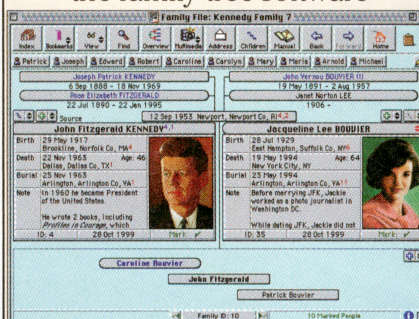
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### DV Video

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[JVC](#)
[Sony](#)
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### Photo Printers

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[Olympus](#)
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### Scanners

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## Featured Digital Cameras >>

### OLYMPUS E10

Fileless Digital  
4 Million-pixel CCD  
TFT LCD Display  
4x f2.0-2.4-9-36mm  
Hi-Res 1.8" Color TFT LCD



### Canon D-30

3.11 Million Pixel  
Resolution 3 Frames  
Per Second Histogram  
Displayed w/Each Shot 13 Custom  
Functions High Quality Still Images



### Nikon D1H

2.74 Megapixel CCD  
3D Matrix Image Control  
Continuous Shooting Modes  
3D Multi-Sensor Balanced  
Fili-Flash



### FUJIFILM S1 Pro

6.1 Megapixel Digital SLR  
5 Exposure Modes  
Histogram Display  
2" LCD Color Screen  
Exclusive Super CCD Technology



### SONY MVC FD-97

10X Optical Zoom  
Lens 2.1 Megapixel  
Resolution Aperture &  
Shutter Priority Settings  
and an Eyelevel Viewfinder



### OLYMPUS C-3040

F1.8 Aspherical 3X Zoom  
3.34 Million Pixel CCD  
32 Mb Smart Media  
One Touch White Balance  
Multi Spot Metering



### OLYMPUS C-700

1600 x 1200 Maximum  
Resolution  
8MB Smart Media  
10x optical/2.7x digital zoom  
Auto exposure bracketing  
Burst / Movie modes



### Nikon Coolpix 995

2048 X 1536 Maximum  
resolution / swivel lens  
4X Optical / 4x digital zoom  
1.8" LCD Monitor  
Burst / Movie modes



### SONY DSC-S75

3x Optical Zoom  
3.34 Million Pixel  
CCD 8MB Memory  
Stick HQ Movie  
Mode 2" Color Lcd  
Spot Metering



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## Featured DV Video >>

### SONY DCR-TRV30

1.5 Mega Pixel Imager  
1360x1020 Digital Still Images  
Intelligent Pop Up Flash



### Canon ZR-20

10x Optical Zoom,  
200x Digital Zoom,  
2.5" LCD Screen,  
Analog Video Input,  
Automatic and Manual Modes,  
Holds 700 Still Images on Tape



### JVC GR-DVL2000

10x Optical / 300 Digital Zoom  
3.5" LCD Color Monitor  
Image Stabilizer  
680,000 Pixel CCD



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## Featured Photo Printers >>

### EPSON Stylus Photo 2000P

EPSON Stylus Photo Scan  
2000 All-in-One Color Printing,  
Scanning and Copying All-In-One  
in 4-Color (CMYK). Small Footprint.  
1440 x 720 DPI Resolution. 300 x 600 DPS Scanning



### OLYMPUS P-400

Uses USB or Parallel Port Compatible  
with Windows and MAC, LCD  
Information Panel, Prints 8x10 Dye Sub  
Color Photos, Professional Solution  
without the Professional Budget



### EPSON Stylus Photo 1280

2880x720 DPI Premiere  
Photo Printer. Quick Drying Inks for  
Stunning Prints to 13"x19". Border Free Printing. 6 Color  
Inks and Panoramas up to 44". 4 Icoliter Dot Size.  
Includes Qbeo Photo Genetics & Epson Film Factory



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## Featured Scanners >>

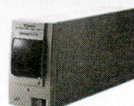
### Nikon Coolscan 4000 ED

4000 DPI film scanner with fast38  
second scan time! 4.2 Dynamic  
Range Highest of Any Desktop  
Scanner. Multi Scan Feature Produces Drum  
Scanner Quality. Firewire IEEE 1394 interface.



### Canon FS-4000

New affordable 4000 DPI Film  
Scanner. Uses Xenon Lamp Light Source, USB and  
SCSI Interfaces. Creates 42 Bit Scans for 35mm and  
APS film, Canon "FARE" Automatic Dust and Scratch  
Removal, Fast 48 Second Scan Time and 3.4 Dynamic  
Range. Includes Adobe Photoshop LE



### MINOLTA Dimage Scan Elite

Scans both 35mm Sleeves and Mounted,  
Positive and Negative Films in Color and  
Black & White, Optional Aps Adapter is  
2,820 DPI Optical Resolution, 3.6 Wide Dynamic Range,  
12-bit Ad Conversion Producing 36-bit color, Digital ICE cor-  
rection Enhancement, Adobe Photoshop LE



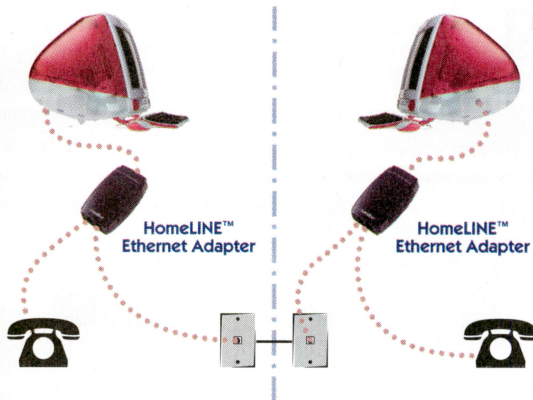
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |
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| <b>E-10</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Filmless Digital</li> <li>✓ 4 Million Pixel CCD</li> <li>✓ TFT LCD Display</li> <li>✓ 4x f2.0-2.4-9-36mm</li> <li>✓ High Res. 1.8" Color TFT LCD</li> </ul> | <b>OLYMPUS E-10</b> | <b>C-700</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br>1600 x 1200 Maximum Resolution<br>8MB Smart Media<br>10x optical/2.7x digital zoom<br>Auto exposure bracketing<br>Burst / Movie modes | <b>OLYMPUS E-100RS</b> | <b>C-2040</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 2.1 Million Pixel CCD</li> <li>✓ One Touch White Balance</li> <li>✓ Aspherical 3X Zoom iMulti Spot Metering</li> <li>✓ 15 Recording Modes</li> <li>✓ Aperture, Shutter Priority &amp; Manual Modes</li> </ul> | <b>OLYMPUS C-2040</b> | <b>C-3040</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ F1.8 Aspherical 3X Zoom</li> <li>✓ 3.34 Million Pixel CCD</li> <li>✓ 32 Mb Smart Media</li> <li>✓ One Touch White Balance</li> <li>✓ Multi Spot Metering</li> </ul> | <b>OLYMPUS C-3040</b> | <b>C-2100UZ</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 10X Stabilized Optical Zoom</li> <li>✓ 2.7X Digital Zoom</li> <li>✓ 3 Frame Per Second Burst Mode</li> <li>✓ Spot &amp; Multi Spot Metering</li> <li>✓ 5 Program Modes</li> </ul> | <b>OLYMPUS C-2100 UZ</b> |
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**SONY DIGITAL CAMERAS**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                     |
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| <b>MVC-CD300</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br>2048 x 1536 maximum resolution<br>3x Optical / 6x Digital zoom<br>2.5" LCD Monitor<br>3" CD-RW disk storage<br>4 Program modes, compensation movie & voice modes | <b>SONY MVC-CD300</b> | <b>MVC-FD97</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 10x Optical Zoom</li> <li>✓ 2.1 Megapixel Resolution</li> <li>✓ Aperture &amp; Shutter Priority</li> <li>✓ Settings and an Eyelevel Viewfinder</li> </ul> | <b>SONY MVC-FD97</b> | <b>MVC-FD75</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Uses 3.5" Floppy Disks</li> <li>✓ 10x Optical Zoom w/Macro Capability</li> <li>✓ 2.5" TFT LCD Screen</li> <li>✓ 4 Mode Program Auto Exposure</li> <li>✓ 640x480 VGA</li> </ul> | <b>SONY MVC-FD75</b> | <b>DSC-S75</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 3.34 Million Pixel CCD</li> <li>✓ 8MB Memory Stick</li> <li>✓ HQ Movie Mode</li> <li>✓ 2" Color Lcd</li> <li>✓ Spot Metering</li> <li>✓ Variable ISO</li> </ul> | <b>SONY DSC-S75</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|

**Canon DIGITAL CAMERAS**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                   |
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| <b>Powershot Pro 90IS</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 1.8" LCD Monitor</li> <li>✓ USB Cable Connection</li> <li>✓ Color LCD Viewfinder</li> <li>✓ Interline Transfer CCD</li> <li>✓ Self Timer</li> </ul> | <b>Canon Powershot Pro 90IS</b> | <b>Powershot S-300</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Records Movie Clips 20 Frames per Second</li> <li>✓ Full Audio/Video Playback</li> <li>✓ 2.1 Megapixel CCD Sensor</li> </ul> | <b>Canon Powershot S-300</b> | <b>Powershot S-100</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 1600x1200 Resolution</li> <li>✓ 1.8" TFT LCD Display</li> <li>✓ 2X/4X digital Zoom</li> <li>✓ Built-in Flash</li> <li>✓ Built-in High-Speed USB Interface</li> </ul> | <b>Canon Powershot S-100</b> | <b>D-30</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 3.11 Million Pixel Resolution SLR</li> <li>✓ 3 Frames Per Second</li> <li>✓ Histogram Displayed w/Each Shot</li> <li>✓ 13 Custom Function</li> <li>✓ Easy Controls</li> <li>✓ High Quality Still Images</li> </ul> | <b>Canon D-30</b> |
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**Nikon DIGITAL CAMERAS**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>D1H</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 5.7 Megapixel CCD</li> <li>✓ 3D Matrix Image Control</li> <li>✓ Continuous Shooting Modes</li> <li>✓ 3D Multi-Sensor</li> <li>✓ Balanced Fill-Flash</li> <li>✓ IEEE 1394 Interface</li> </ul> | <b>Nikon D1H</b> | <b>Coolpix 995</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br>2048 X 1536 Maximum resolution / swivel lens<br>4X Optical / 4x digital zoom<br>16MB Compact Flash<br>1.8" LCD Monitor<br>Burst / Movie modes | <b>Nikon Coolpix 990</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**FUJIFILM DIGITAL CAMERAS**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                |
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| <b>Finepix 6800</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 3.3 Million Mega Pixel</li> <li>✓ 5 Frames Per Second</li> <li>✓ USB Hot Sync</li> <li>✓ Video Conferencing</li> </ul> | <b>FUJIFILM Finepix 6800</b> | <b>Finepix S-1 Pro</b><br><br>Call or Click On Our Website For Lowest Prices<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 6.1 Megapixel Digital SLR</li> <li>✓ Exclusive Super CCD Technology</li> <li>✓ 5 Exposure Modes</li> <li>✓ Histogram Display</li> <li>✓ 2" Color LCD Screen</li> </ul> | <b>FUJIFILM Finepix S-1Pro</b> |
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**Other Digital Cameras**  
 Olympus C3000  
 Olympus C-3030

Olympus E-100RS  
 Olympus D-360  
 Olympus D-490  
 Olympus C-211

Nikon Coolpix 880  
 Nikon D1 Pro SLR  
 Nikon D1X Pro SLR  
 Sony MVC-FD87

Sony MVD-FD92  
 Sony Cybershot P1  
 Sony Cybershot 505V  
 Sony Cybershot P-30

Sony Cybershot P-50  
 Canon Powershot A-10  
 Canon Powershot A-20  
 Canon Powershot S-20

Fuji Finepix 40i  
 Fuji Finepix 2300  
 Fuji Finepix 2400  
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### DIGITAL VIDEO

### PRINTERS

#### OLYMPUS

#### SONY

#### SONY

#### EPSON

**New!**  
**C-3040**  
\* F1.8 Aspherical 3X Zoom  
\* 3.34 Million Pixel CCD  
\* 32 Mb Smart Media  
\* One Touch White Balance  
\* Multi Spot Metering

**MVC-CD300**  
2048 x 1536 maximum resolution  
3x Optical / 6x Digital zoom  
2.5" LCD Monitor  
3" CD-RW disk storage  
4 Program modes, compensation  
movie & voice modes

**DCR VX-2000**  
\* Sony's Newest & most Compact DV Camcorder  
\* 2 1/2" Touch Screen Precision Color LCD Monitor  
\* Precision Color Viewfinder (200,000 pixels)  
\* 12 or 16 Bit PCM Stereo w/Audio Dub Capability  
\* Carl Zeiss Vario Sonar lens  
\* 10x optical/ 120x digital zoom  
\* SteadyShot Image Stabilizer

**Stylus Photo 2000P**  
\* Professional, Archival quality  
fine art photo printer  
w/1440x720 P1 resolution, print  
sizes up to 13"x19" and  
panorama to 13"x44" Print life  
rated at 200 years. Includes  
roll paper holder.

**C-700**  
1600 x 1200 Maximum  
Resolution  
8MB Smart Media  
10x optical/2.7x digital zoom  
Auto exposure bracketing  
Burst / Movie modes

**DSC-P1**  
\* 3.3 Megapixel  
\* 3x Optical/6X Digital Zoom Lens  
\* 1.5" LCD Screen  
\* Underwater Housing  
\* Exclusive new GIF animation  
feature

**DCR PC-110**  
\* Digital Video Recording  
\* MegaPixel CCD  
\* Carl ZeissTM Vario-Sonnar Lens  
\* 10x Optical/120x Precision Digital zoom  
\* 2.5" Precision SwivelScreen  
LCD Display (200K Pixels)  
\* Viewfinder (180K pixels)  
\* Precision Color Viewfinder (180,000 Pixels)

**Stylus Photo 1280**  
\* 2880x720 DPI premiere photo  
printer. Quick drying inks for stunning  
prints to 13"x19". Border free  
printing. 6 color inks and panorama  
up to 44". 4 picoliter dot  
size. Includes Qbeo Photo Genetics  
& Epson Film Factory

**C-2100Z**  
\* 10x Image Stabilized Optical  
\* 2.7x Digital Zoom  
\* 3 Frame Per Second Burst Mode  
\* 5 Program Modes  
\* Spot & Multi Spot Metering

**DSC-S75**  
\* 3x Optical Zoom  
\* 3.34 Million Pixel CCD  
\* 8MB Memory Stick  
\* HQ Movie Mode  
\* 2" Color LCD  
\* Spot Metering  
\* Variable ISO

**DCR PC-5**  
\* Palm-sized Handycam Camcorder  
\* 2.5" SwivelScreen™ LCD Display  
\* Super SteadyShot Picture Stabilization  
\* AccuPower™ Battery System  
\* Stereo Sound with Audio Dub Capability  
\* 10x optical/ 120x digital zoom  
\* Carl Zeiss® Optics

**Stylus Photo 890**  
\* 2880x720 DPI premiere photo  
printer. Quick drying inks for stunning  
prints to 13"x19". Border free  
printing. 6 color inks and panorama  
up to 44". 4 picoliter dot  
size. Includes Qbeo Photo Genetics  
& Epson Film Factory

**E-10**  
\* 1.8" Color LCD  
\* Holds SmartMedia and  
Compact Flash  
\* 35-140mm Lens  
\* Fully Multi-coated glass  
optics

**Canon**  
**Powershot S-100 Zoom**  
Digital Elph  
\* 1600x1200 resolution  
\* 1.8" TFT LCD display  
\* 2X/4X digital zoom  
\* Built-in flash  
\* Built-in high-speed USB interface

**DCR TRV-30/17**  
\* Dcr Trv 330: 1.5 Mega Pixel Imager  
\* 1360x1020 Digital Still Images  
\* Intelligent Pop-Up Flash  
\* Dcr Trv 17: 10X Optical/120X Digital Zoom  
w/readyshot stabilization  
\* Analog Recording Capability \* USB  
Connection  
\* Laserlink Wireless Connection

**OLYMPUS**  
**P-330N**  
\* 2880x720 DPI premiere photo  
printer. Quick drying inks for stunning  
prints to 13"x19". Border free  
printing. 6 color inks and panorama  
up to 44". 4 picoliter dot  
size. Includes Qbeo Photo Genetics  
& Epson Film Factory

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|------------------|-----------------|
| C-3000.....Call  | C-2040.....Call |
| C-2500L.....Call | D-100.....Call  |
| E100RS.....Call  | D-150.....Call  |
| C-211.....Call   |                 |

**Canon**  
**Powershot G-1**  
\* 1600x1200 resolution  
\* 1.8" TFT LCD display  
\* 2X/4X digital zoom  
\* Built-in flash  
\* Built-in high-speed USB  
interface

**DCR TRV-830/730/530**  
\* 25x optical and 450x digital zoom  
lens. Hyper precision CCD with 460,000  
photos sharp pictures at full zoom.  
\* Photo mode captures a still image with  
seven seconds of audio narration

**OLYMPUS**  
**P-400**  
\* 2880x720 DPI premiere photo  
printer. Quick drying inks for stunning  
prints to 13"x19". Border free  
printing. 6 color inks and panorama  
up to 44". 4 picoliter dot  
size. Includes Qbeo Photo Genetics  
& Epson Film Factory

**Nikon**  
**Coolpix 995**  
2048 X 1536 Maximum  
resolution / swivel lens  
4X Optical / 4x digital zoom  
16MB Compact Flash  
1.8" LCD Monitor  
Burst / Movie modes

**Canon**  
**EOS D-30**  
\* 3.1 Million Pixel Resolution SLR  
\* 3 Frames Per Second  
\* Histogram Displayed w/Each Shot  
\* 13 Custom Function  
\* Easy Controls  
\* High Quality Still Images

**Canon**  
**XL-1**  
\* 3-CCD DV Camcorder with Interchangeable  
Lens Mount System  
\* 16X Optical Zoom w/ SuperRange Image Stabili  
\* Normal Movie mode  
\* Hi-resolution stop action movie  
& Digital Still Modes

**SCANNERS**  
**Nikon**  
**Coolscan 4000ED**  
\* 4000 DPI film scanner with fast  
38 second scan time!  
\* 4.2 Dynamic range highest of any  
desktop scanner \* Multi Scan  
feature produces drum scanner  
quality

**Nikon**  
**Coolpix 775**  
\* 3.34 Megapixel CCD w/rue  
image resolution of  
2048x1536 for easy crop-  
ping

**FUJIFILM**  
**PowerShot S300**  
\* 3.1 Million Pixel Resolution SLR  
\* 3 Frames Per Second  
\* Histogram Displayed w/Each Shot  
\* 13 Custom Function  
\* Easy Controls  
\* High Quality Still Images

**Canon**  
**GL-1**  
\* Professional Quality L-Series Fluorite Lens For  
Remarkable Images  
\* 20x Zoom Lens with 100x Digital Zoom Provides  
Supreme Clarity \* 3 CCD Image Sensors with Pixel  
Shift Achieve Outstanding Detail \* Optical Image  
Stabilization Corrects Camera Shake Instantly \* 3  
Shooting Modes Accommodate any Recording Need

**SCANNERS**  
**Nikon**  
**Coolscan 8000ED**  
\* 4000 DPI film scanner with fast  
38 second scan time!  
\* 4.2 Dynamic range highest of any  
desktop scanner \* Multi Scan  
feature produces drum scanner  
quality

**Kodak**  
**DC-5000**  
\* 2.1 Megapixel resolution  
\* 1760 x 1168 resolution  
\* 2X optical zoom lets you capture  
important details  
\* 1.8" TFT color LCD to give you  
excellent detail for your pictures

**FUJIFILM**  
**PowerShot A10**  
\* 3.1 Million Pixel Resolution SLR  
\* 3 Frames Per Second  
\* Histogram Displayed w/Each Shot  
\* 13 Custom Function  
\* Easy Controls  
\* High Quality Still Images

**Canon**  
**Elura 2MC**  
\* 10x Optical/40x Digital Zoom Lens  
\* Optical Image Stabilization  
\* 2.5" Color LCD View Screen  
\* Color Viewfinder PCM Stereo  
\* Utilizes Multimedia Cards for Digital  
Still Pictures

**MINOLTA**  
**Dimage Scan Elite**  
\* Scans both 35mm sleeves and  
mounted, positive  
and negative films in color  
and black & white  
\* Optional Ap adapter is  
available  
\* 2.820 dpi optical resolution  
\* 3.6 wide dynamic range  
\* 12-bit Ad Conversion  
producing 36-bit color  
\* Digital ICE correction Enhancemex™  
Adobe Photoshop  
LE included \* Available for Mac and Windows

**Kodak**  
**DX-3500**  
1901 x 1212 Maximum Resolution,  
Optional camera dock, 3X Digital  
Zoom,  
8MB Internal / Compact flash,  
1.8"LCD Monitor

**FUJIFILM**  
**PowerShot A20**  
\* 3.1 Million Pixel Resolution SLR  
\* 3 Frames Per Second  
\* Histogram Displayed w/Each Shot  
\* 13 Custom Function  
\* Easy Controls  
\* High Quality Still Images

**JVC**  
**GRDVL-2000**  
10x Optical / 300 Digital Zoom  
3.5" LCD Color Monitor  
Image Stabilizer  
680,000 Pixel CCD

**Canon**  
**Canoscan FS 4000**  
\* New affordable 4000 DPI film  
scanner. \* Uses Xenon lamp light  
source \* USB and SCSI interfaces  
\* Creates 42 bit scans for 35mm  
and APS film. \* Canon "FARE"  
automatic dust and scratch  
removal. \* Fast 48 second scan  
time and 3.4 dynamic range. \*  
Includes Adobe Photoshop LE

**Kodak**  
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\* 2.1 Megapixel resolution  
\* 1760 x 1168 resolution  
\* 2X optical zoom lets you capture  
important details  
\* 1.8" TFT color LCD to give you  
excellent detail for your pictures

**FUJIFILM**  
**PowerShot A20**  
\* 3.1 Million Pixel Resolution SLR  
\* 3 Frames Per Second  
\* Histogram Displayed w/Each Shot  
\* 13 Custom Function  
\* Easy Controls  
\* High Quality Still Images

**JVC**  
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\* Multimedia Interface \* 10x Optical Hyper Zoom  
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**Canoscan 2710**  
\* 4000 DPI film scanner with fast  
38 second scan time!  
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desktop scanner \* Multi Scan  
feature produces drum scanner  
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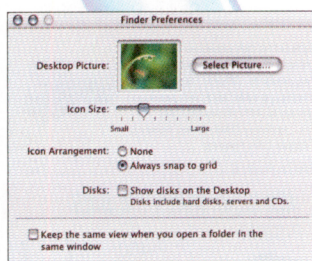
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# Super Dock Tricks, Preview Documents, and Organize Downloads

## Quickly Access Your Hard Drive

Mac OS X mounts hard drives and CDs on the desktop, just like Mac OS 9. However, you can streamline things by removing your hard drive icon from the desktop and placing it in the Dock for quicker access. Click the Mac OS icon in the Dock to go to the Finder. Now select Preferences from the Finder menu. A window appears listing various options for the Finder and desktop. Uncheck the option to "Show disks on the Desktop," and close the window. Click the Computer button in any Finder window to show your current mounted disks. Now drag your hard drive icon to the Dock to make the drive easily accessible from any application!



## Docking Maneuvers

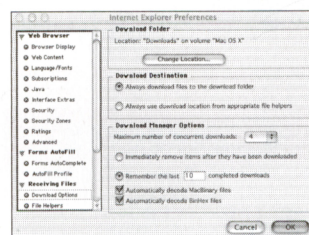
Many users are rather partial to Mac OS X's Dock. It combines the features of Mac OS 9's Control Strip, Application Menu, and Apple Menu into one convenient utility. Some people are bothered by its location at the bottom of the screen, where it frequently overlaps document windows and obstructs information. The Dock can be hidden from view, but for many, it's not an effective solution. Since document windows are usually justified to the left, some users would prefer to have the Dock run vertically at the right side of the screen.

A clever shareware author has created a utility to let the Dock be repositioned. Austin Shoemaker's Docking Maneuvers 1.1 (<http://homepage.mac.com/isleep/>) activates Dock Orientation and Dock Pinning commands. After you download and install the software, simply Control-click the dock near the divider to access the additional features. The Orientation submenu lets you position the Dock anywhere you like, while the Pinning submenu allows you to snap the dock to a corner. The only limitation is that the Dock returns to its customary position at the bottom of the screen each time you reboot. Hopefully, Apple will add these features in a future revision.

By Chris McVeigh

## Create a Downloads Folder

Internet Explorer is a rather messy application. It automatically tosses all new downloads on your desktop, creating quite a clutter. Thankfully, you can fix this without much fuss. Go to the Finder and open a new Finder window. Click the Home button and the top, and then select New Folder from the file menu. Call the folder "Downloads." Now, launch Internet Explorer. Select Preferences from the Explorer menu, and click



Download Options listed at the left. A new set of options appears to the right. Click the topmost button called Change Location to pick a new spot for downloads off the desktop. Select the Downloads folder just created, click Choose, and then click OK. Your downloads will now automatically

be stored in the Downloads folder, minimizing the chaos on the desktop. To quickly access the Downloads folder, you can drop it into the Dock.

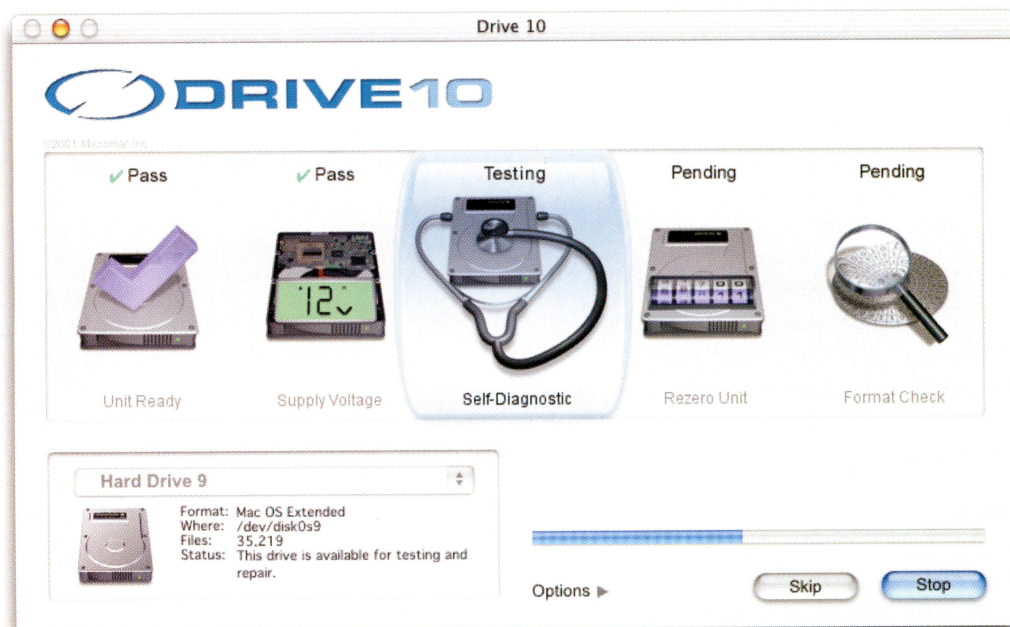
## Simple Document Browsing

Mac OS X's Finder offers a way to browse photo, music, and movie files without the tedium of opening an application. Click the Mac OS icon in the Dock to go to the Finder. A Finder window is automatically called to the front. Click the rightmost View button to change to multi-pane view. Now click through the hard drive until you locate a folder containing photos in JPEG format, QuickTime movies, or MP3s. Click once on the file of your choice, and a small preview will immediately appear in a pane to the right. These movie and MP3 files can be played within the Finder window, too! **MH**





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